



Charles Trombley

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# RELEASED TO REIGN

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The only complete exposition  
on the Authority of the Believer in print!



*Dane*

Foreword by Kenneth Copeland

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## RELEASED TO REIGN


They stirred nations. They withstood authorities. They converted pagans and made hell tremble. Taking the scriptures as they found them, their war cry was: "If God said it, He will do it!" Who were they? We call them the primitive Christians.

Times have changed! We have grown so sophisticated! We have made wonderful headway in technology, transportation and communication, but has that made us superior to our early Christian brothers and sisters? On the contrary! Sedentary life styles and excessive prosperity leave little else for us to do but occasionally yawn a bored "what's new?" In our reliance on modern gadgetry we have dangerously drifted from an effective application of the Scriptures. More often than not we excuse our failures: "Maybe the Lord used to do such things, but not any more."

Prompted by the desire to get at the root of this crass difference between early and modern Christians, the author arrives at a startling conclusion: They knew who they were. They knew what they could do and why. They understood who, indeed, they were in Christ Jesus.

It is high time that we, too, begin to know these things and realize that Jesus' authority is freely given to each believer willing to use it to further the kingdom. Man has been released to reign and this book shows how.

*I.S.B.N. 0-89221-064-8*

New Leaf  Press

RELEASED TO REIGN  
(The Power and Authority of

# the Believer)

## By Charles Trombley

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New Leaf Press  
PO BOX 1045, HARRISON, ARK. 72601  
501-741-2514

CHRISTIAN BOOK ROOM  
2 Foundry Lane  
off West Street  
Durban 4001

Other Books by the author:

KICKED OUT OF THE KINGDOM

VISITATION—THE KEY TO CHURCH GROWTH

BIBLE ANSWERS FOR THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

GUILTY AS CHARGED

PRAISE—FAITH IN ACTION

First Edition, 1979

Second Edition, 1980

Cover design: Peter Hope

Typesetting by *Type-O-Graphics*

*Springfield, Mo. 65806*

Library of Congress Catalog Number: 79-90266 International Standard Book

Number: 0-89221-064-8

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# FOREWORD

The authority invested in the believer was not man's idea, it was God's. Traditional religious teaching has taught that God had rather not fool with man at all. That He could care less about our lives, except, from time to time, He blasts us with disaster of one kind or another. Thank God, that kind of foolishness is no longer being accepted by thinking, praying people anymore.

So little has been said about what actually happened during the three days between the cross and the throne that most Christians are completely ignorant of it. Calvary was real! Jesus' death was real! Therefore, His life now is real! All that fabulous victory is real and it's *our* victory.

I have been a student of the authority of the believer since 1967. I only wish I had had a book like the one you are about to read when I first became a Christian. All the vital facts are here. Study it! Read every Scripture very carefully. Read them from your Bible. God has invested His very own Son in your becoming strong in His authority and in His name. Let these things become a vital part of everything you do. This book can change your life from defeat to victory if you will put its powerful contents into practice.

I thank God for Charles Trombley. I know him very well and I regard him as a man of God's own heart. He lives what he preaches. It works in his life. It is a privilege and honor to be a part of this book and a part of Brother Trombley's ministry.

You are in for a great adventure in reading *RELEASED TO REIGN*.  
—Kenneth Copeland



# **PREFACE**

The following chapters present what the author believes is the most important message for Christians anywhere and at any time. It was prompted by the obvious difference between the modern believer and the so-called primitive ones. They stirred nations, upset religionists, withstood authorities, converted pagans, and caused hell to tremble. Satan obeyed them, sickness vanished before them, demons hid when they appeared, and the world knew they were around. “These men who have disturbed the whole world have come here also. Flee while there’s yet time!” What a glorious reputation.

Today it’s so different. With the benefits of superior transportation, unlimited communications, probing satellites, mountain-sized printing presses, and abundant prosperity beyond anything ever known before, the world stands, yawns, and says, “What’s new?”

The primitive church proclaimed, “God reigns. He is absolutely Lord. Anything He said He will do, He will!” The advanced modern church explains, “The Lord used to do such things, but He doesn’t anymore. Of course, He can do anything He wants to, but we don’t know IF He will!”

What did the early believers have that we don’t? Did God anoint them in a special way and for a particular purpose? Some dispensationalists would have us think so, but history debunks such a myth. The difference was this: They knew WHO they were and WHY. They knew WHAT they could do and WHY! And that made the difference!

When religion yields to its frustrated unbelief, it soon restricts and confines man to its quagmire of helplessness. Rather than letting Christ lift them to where He is, they systematically seek to drag Him down to their level.

Man isn’t struggling toward a possible victory in the sweet by-and-by, but proceeding from a gloriously completed one in the long past. He is destined to rule and reign with the divine Lord as an equal. Therefore, he must be trained, educated, equipped, and prepared for that wondrous role.

In order that the believer succeed, God Himself entered the stream of humanity in the Incarnation. As the Son of God He overcame man’s enemy, Satan, and paralyzed him both legally and experimentally. ALL THAT HE DID HE DID FOR THE BELIEVER! Not one of His accomplishments was for Himself; He didn’t need them. His victory was, therefore, credited to the believer’s record as though it were actually his.

Although it's a foregone conclusion that Christ once for all, defeated Satan and legally restored man to his former relationship as a child of God, He permitted Satan to continue his warfare using guerrilla tactics. He authorized the church, made up of individual believers, to take His Word, use His name, exercise His power, and enforce His victory over Satan. HIS AUTHORITY WAS FREELY GIVEN TO EACH BELIEVER and here is where the church failed.

For the first few centuries the hellish armies of Satan shuddered at the mention of Christ's name. Those early believers brandished the LIVING WORD .is the sword of the Spirit, expecting results and getting them. Gradually, as the church "matured" and settled down to becoming an institution, her "teachers" decided that God changed His program.

They raised the question as to whether or not Jesus really destroyed Satan and ALL his works. They debated whether or not the authority vested in the early church was still available. For centuries they argued about whether or not the gifts of the Spirit were temporary. As her theologians gained further knowledge, they questioned the authority of the Word, until they ultimately rejected God's Word as THE WORD. With nothing left except institutionalized religion, doubt and uncertainty overwhelmed the believer until Satan could have killed them with a hangnail had he desired. Rather than withstanding the "gates of hell" as Jesus said His Church would, they submitted to the world, accepted change, and lost their self-respect. What a terrible reputation!

Legally, God destroyed Satan once for all. But He chose to give His authority to man and his enablement in overcoming Satan. They were to establish Christ's decisive victory and free mankind.

Therefore, the believer is God's deputy. The church as a whole, and the believer as an individual, has at his disposal all that is necessary to successfully overcome anything that withstands the Kingdom of God. Man has been RELEASED TO REIGN! This message establishes the believer Scripturally, legally, experimentally, and pragmatically. When you're done, you'll know exactly WHO you are and WHY. You'll know WHAT you can do and HOW. You'll be RELEASED TO REIGN by using THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER!

—Charles Trombley

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# 1: THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

They were bone-weary; the fatigue of endless days of ministering and the stilling dust from the long walk home was plainly visible. They walked with low deliberate steps, but they weren't complaining. For weeks they had faced the obstinate, arguing, and sulking resentments of the jealous religious leaders, not only because they were Jesus' followers, but now they were acting like Him.

"Repent and believe the gospel!" they cried. "As quickly as a comet lightens the night sky, so will the kingdom of God appear!" And then they demonstrated the authority of that kingdom by healing all manner of diseases.

Little wonder the religious authorities were overly cautious. If this continues their own meetings would be emptied. Back home again, they faced the Master for their first reports since He sent them out.

"It worked just like you said it would," they shouted with excitement. "Why, even the devils are subject to us through your name." Although they were grown responsible men, the childish excitement gripped them all. They all talked at the same time, each one trying to share his part of the story.

"I know you told us to heal the sick and say to them that the kingdom of God is come nigh to you, but we discovered that some of these folks were bound by demons, so we commanded them to depart in Your name like the twelve do and, Lord, it worked for us, too! Glory to God! Even our most potent enemy quits when we utter Your name!"

"You weren't alone, fellows," Jesus assured them, the faintest smile of approval at the corners of His mouth. "My heart and my eye went with you and I noticed your success." He wasn't much taller than His companions, yet He had a certain charisma and assurance about Him that immediately set Him apart. His take-charge attitude wasn't pushy, yet it was always evident. He seemed to know what was going on. Turning His deeply-tanned face toward heaven He said, "And I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning falls from the clouds."

Was He telling them that Satan fell as they ministered the Gospel?

Turning to face them all, He continued, "You see, it's like this—as you gain ground by doing what I tell you, the devil loses ground, and that's the name of the game. When he falls it is so irrecoverable, so sudden and final, that anyone can notice and say, 'See how Satan's kingdom totters and shakes! Now is the prince of this world cast down!'

"Now pay attention to what I'm about to say," Jesus urged. "I give you

authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you” (Luke 10:19).

They had been successful in healing the sick and casting out devils, but Christ saw beyond their immediate success and rejoiced in that it furthered the downfall of the enemy. From now on they would exercise even greater authority, and as they used what they already had, more would be granted. “To him that has, more shall be given” (Matt. 13:12). In other words, He told them to use it or lose it!

Their new authority would be two-fold: (1) Offensive, in that they would bruise the serpent’s head according to the first promise in Genesis 3:15, and (2) Defensive, in that though you will suffer great persecution, and threats on your life, nothing would really harm you (Mark 16).

“You’ll bruise their heads in My name; you’ll tread on these lions and adders whenever you meet them, and you’ll trample underfoot the power of the enemy, and the kingdom of the Messiah will be eternally established upon the ruins of Satan’s kingdom.”

When the seventy realized the prominent part they could play in bringing about Satan’s utter defeat, and their significance in sharing the Master’s ministry; when they believed they could actually do what He was telling them to do, their excitement rose to even greater heights. And now, lest they fall into the pride of self-importance where Satan could again ensnare them, Jesus warned: “And now rejoice, not because this kingdom-shaking, binding and loosing authority is yours, but because your names are enrolled in the kingdoms’ records. Unless you are an active part of my kingdom, you’re still under the control of Satan’s kingdom. So rejoice that you’ve already been delivered from the authority of the enemy, and transferred anew into Mine!”

It almost staggers us when we meditate on the reality of our Lord’s Word and how plainly He spoke. Little wonder, “They were astonished at His doctrine: for His Word was with authority” (Luke 4:32).

# WHAT IS AUTHORITY?

There aren't many subjects relevant to the Christian life which are so little understood, accepted, or appropriated as those dealing with the dominion of the believer. It certainly isn't because such magnificent power was reserved by God for a select few, even though most theologians would have us think so.

Every discipline in life has its own authority. Mathematics has its rules, equations, and formulas. Music has its rules of harmony, time, and chord progressions. English has its rules of grammar. Science has very definite fixed rules, and Christianity, too, has its unique authority. In laying hold of this kingdom-moving truth, let's first clear away some of the misconceptions of WHAT IT IS NOT!

Some have confused this authority with the fullness of the Spirit, or the baptism in the Spirit. They teach that the entrance of the Spirit of God in divine fullness gives authority. To some this takes place when the sinner is born again, while others hold to a subsequent experience. I've met both kinds, ministered with both kinds and couldn't help noticing their lack of dominion in both their personal lives and circumstances. Daily they battled the devil and invariably he rubbed their noses in the dirt at his will.

What they failed to realize was that their acceptance of the Spirit was more mental than actual. The Holy Spirit is a real person and is received as a whole person into our spirits, not our minds. Further, the believer's authority dates from Calvary, not the upper room. The source of authority is found in His resurrection and the seating of Christ, by God, at His own right hand (Ephesians 1:20). While it is true that the Spirit empowers the believer—"You shall receive power (*dunamis*) when the Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8)—this isn't the authority of the believer. It is power that will make us witnesses with evidence. It takes authority (*exousia*) of the exalted Christ before the power (*dunamis*) of the indwelling Spirit can be exercised!

Still others teach that this authority was a special gift empowering a special person or group for a particular, though temporary ministry, such as casting out devils and healing the sick. While these ministries are listed among the charismata, they are NOT the source of nor are they THE AUTHORITY. Jesus unreservedly gave this authority to the "seventy" long before the day of Pentecost, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, or the charismatic gifts (John 7:37-39).

The knowledge of the authority is what energizes the charismatic manifestations that are available to ALL believers. "But to each one is given the



manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. . . . But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY just as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:7, 11 NAS).

To others this authority is the result of waiting before God with prevailing prayer and fasting. Intercession is a particular ministry and one that is much needed, but I’ve heard men on their knees who were definitely under a heavy burden, who were praising and thanking God for the “gift of prayer.” But for all their urgency and “storming the gates of Heaven,” there weren’t any known results. They were personally blessed, to be sure, but let’s not mistake this for authority.

Sometime ago, I participated in a retreat where the emphasis was on prayer, discipline, and “death to the old man.” One of the main speakers, a well-known and well-accepted speaker, literally harped on “dying to self.” After three days of preaching and prolonged periods of soul-searching prayer, there was a moment of brokenness, confession, and repentance. We knelt in a circle, holding hands, while this dear brother poured forth his heart-cry to “die to self.”

When the pre-session ended regular service began, I rejoiced in my spirit that this heavy-hearted brother had finally found peace. No sooner had the service ended than he was at it again; urging us to pray that we might die to self!

That isn’t authority, nor will authority come that way! Had he acted on the final revelation of the Word in 1 Corinthians 1:30, that Christ was his life and righteousness, he could have risen from that pit of self-pity and defeat and begun shouting on the mountains of glory. How could he ever accept Christ’s gift of authority when he refused to believe that his life was already hid with Christ in God? How could he die again, and again, and again, when the Word said he was already dead?

A well-known British revivalist stated some years ago, in a meeting in eastern Pennsylvania, that he knew of five men in Scotland who met twice weekly for prayer for revival for their homeland. They had been meeting this way for several years, he said. Still, nothing happened! *Must they pray more sincerely ? Must there be more self-denial? Were they in the supper room instead of the upper room? Were they in the playroom when they should have been in the prayer room?* This was the thought of his sermon.

My immediate reaction, rather than being motivated to prayer, was to question God. “Are You playing hard to get? Just why is there such agonizing? Your Word declares that You are not willing for any to perish, yet thousands die in Scotland while these men pray their nights away! You said that whatever we

ask without doubting in our hearts we will have exactly what we say. What's the problem Lord?"

His answer was simple, yet piercing!

Speaking to my inner-man, He said, "They receive a personal blessing and a certain amount of satisfaction in well-doing, and intercession is a most important part of the church's equipment. But unless they mix their words with faith and act according to Mark 11:24, there isn't anything I can do with their supplications. They're asking, but not believing!"

Much of the holding on and the whining heard at altars as people strive to make God move is not authority! Words, whether in song, sermon, or prayer, are just words, unless they are mixed with functioning faith and acted upon.

And then there are some whose concept of Biblical authority is more of an excuse for their impotence. "That authority was like Jesus said," they explain apologetically, "but it was ONLY for the apostles and their immediate disciples. When they died it was revoked!" This defense, I suggest, is based more on the lack of knowledge of WHY JESUS CAME than on the death of the apostles. The truth is, THE CHIEF APOSTLE is alive and well according to Hebrews 3:1.

When Jesus called the "twelve" together, He gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases. "And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. . . . And they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere" (Luke 9:2, 6). These common men, twelve in number, were specially chosen to be with Him (Mark 3:14). Their distinctive position and training was to bear witness of His resurrection after it took place (Acts 1:22, 4:33).

Peter emphasized this fact when it was time to replace Judas, whose suicide left the exclusive group one short. "It is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us ALL THE TIME that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, (1) *beginning* with the baptism of John, (2) *until* the day He was taken up from us, (3) *one of these* should become a witness with us of His resurrection" (Acts 1:21,22 NAS). These three requirements alone exclude Paul from being one of the twelve, yet he was an apostle. His ministry was to build the church; the twelve were to be witnesses of Christ's resurrection.

After this, He appointed "seventy" others. After telling them that the harvest was plentiful, but the laborers few, He charged them to "go to the cities and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, The kingdom of God has come near to you" (Luke 10:8-9).

While the twelve were chosen to be with Him as future witnesses of His

resurrection, the seventy were appointed because of the tremendous harvest and shortage of workers. Both groups, however, received the same commission, “heal the sick and cast out devils, saying the kingdom of God has come near to you.” Does Christ have two different dispensational purposes in mind or is there one common goal, the defeat of Satan’s kingdom and authority?

Finally, when His Ascension Day arrived, He said, “these signs will follow them that believe.” (This includes ANYONE who believes as there are no other qualifications.) “In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues . . . they shall lay their hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

Was Jesus exclusive in delegating this authority? First, the twelve; then the seventy; and finally, the whole body of believers. If the seventy, who were not apostles, came back with glowing reports of victory causing Jesus to declare, I beheld Satan fall from heaven,” (Luke 10:17-18) how much more do we need to hear the same good report. Finally, there are those who insist that this authority is an acquired knowledge. Not revelation knowledge, but human knowledge motivated by the desire to help mankind. Out of this worthy, but frail effort comes all of our social action programs, but which of them has ever worked? One fact is certain, the Lord intended His Church to be the controlling factor and not Satan, and that our mission is to free men from their bondages, not comfort them while they remain captive (Ephesians 3:10).

## 2: POWER AND AUTHORITY

"Behold I have given you power [***exousia***] to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power [***dunamis***] of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you" (Luke 10:19 NAS).

The Authorized Version frequently translates *exousia* as either power or authority, and it is unfortunate that this has happened. It covers some rich leaching. Notice in our text that the word "power" is used twice, translating two different unrelated words. *Dunamis* is the only one that can be correctly rendered "power." *Exousia* should read "authority." As magnificent as the King James Version is, it isn't consistent in translating many words. Perhaps some of the difficulty is because our English language lacks synonyms that fully describe the beauty of the Greek original.

*Dunamis*, as "power," is from a Greek word meaning, "to be able," "enabling," "ability or strength." For example: In 1Corinthians 1:24, Christ is called THE POWER of God. He was baptized in the Holy Spirit AND power (Acts 10:38). The Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation," Paul writes in Romans 1:16.

*Exousia* is from *existi*, meaning "it is lawful" or "the right to act." It is privilege, jurisdiction, deliberate influence, hence authority. A few examples of where the word is used may help you to see the vast difference between power and authority.

In Matthew 9:6 when Jesus was asked by the religious leaders what right He had to tell a palsied man his sins were forgiven, when only God could do that, He replied, 'that you might know that the Son of man HAS authority [*exousia*] on earth to forgive sins. He said to the paralytic, 'Rise, take up your bed, and go home.' " They were correct in knowing that only God had the power to forgive sins, but Jesus, the man, had the authority from God to extend this grace.

When Jesus began His ministry, "His Word was with authority" (Luke 4:32). Rather than echoing the vague voices of His day, who quoted traditional commentators, He graciously spoke the Word as though He and God were on a first name relationship. His positiveness caused the masses to marvel. Whatever He said came to pass! He knew He had been anointed AND appointed to preach the gospel, proclaim release and to declare the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19). He spoke from a know-so authority! He only did what He saw the Father do and said what He heard the Father say. His words and actions were the

actual words and actions of the Father. That is authority, delegated authority. Never acting on His own, but wholly within the bounds of His commission.

Early in His ministry, a Roman army officer calmly requested that Jesus heal his paralyzed servant. His attitude was so assuring that Jesus immediately consented to come, but the officer checked him.

“Lord, it isn’t necessary for you to take the time. I’m not qualified for you to enter my house, anyway. Just say the word and he’ll be healed.” Jesus looked at the man in amazement as the officer said, “I, too, am a man under authority, and whatever I say is done. I’ve watched you operate, and I recognize the sound of authority when I hear it. So just say the word and it will be done!”

When Jesus heard this, He marveled. “I haven’t found faith like this in all Israel! This man, although a Gentile, a despised Roman officer, will sit down in the kingdom with Abraham and his son, while the true sons of the kingdom shall be cast aside. This man knows and recognizes true authority and where it comes from. That releases him from Satan’s control and delivers him into the kingdom of God!”

During a heavily-attended house meeting, it is said that the authority of the Lord was present to heal (Luke 5:17).

Jesus taught with authority and not as the scribes. They spoke *from* authority; He spoke *with* authority. His word had the ring of certainty to it. It was positive, up-building, and hope and faith inspiring. It was life and not a sermon (Mark 1:21-22).

Jesus acted with authority when He calmed the sea (Mark 4:39).

Jesus healed the sick and afflicted with authority (Mark 2:10-12).

Jesus expelled evil spirits with authority (Mark 1:23-27).

Jesus raised the dead with the word of His authority (Luke 7:12-15).

Jesus fed the hungry crowds with His authority (Matthew 14:16-20).

Jesus forgave sinners with authority (Mark 2:10).

And Jesus, still acting on His authority, conferred it to His Body: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do, BECAUSE I go to the Father” (John 11:12 NAS). His only qualifications are, HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME!

*Dunamis* then is enabling power, but *exousia* is delegated authority. It takes that authority to effectively use the power that comes through the Holy Spirit’s infilling.

The other day my wife and I waited at the airport for my flight. Because ORU has a tremendous basketball team and Tulsa University a good football team,

competing teams frequently fly in on commercial airlines. Some of these men are giants! Imagine my surprise when I saw one of the new additions to the Tulsa police force. For many years they maintained strict requirements for minimum size and weight, but this addition was all of 5' 4" and didn't weigh more than 120 pounds soaking wet. Her gun looked so out of proportion to her polite size, yet there she was, a full-fledged "police-person."

"Glad," I whispered, nudging my wife to notice her, "can you imagine that little thing trying to arrest a belligerent 245-pound linebacker who decided he didn't want to be? Why, she's not much bigger than a good-sized hot dog for him."

There wasn't any way imaginable she could ever hope to physically overpower a grown man, but she did have one major advantage. On her neatly-pressed male uniform was a small, shiny metal shield, not very large, and not very strong, but behind it stood the full authority of the city of Tulsa and the State of Oklahoma. The dominion vested in that badge more than made up for her lack of size. I'm sure she encounters situations almost daily where she doesn't have the physical power to overcome by herself, but then she doesn't have to; she has the city of Tulsa behind her, and that's a lot of clout!

This illustrates the superiority of authority when two opposing forces are in conflict. The believer, who is fully conscious of the divine power behind him, and of his legal rights thereby, can face any enemy or situation without fear, hesitation, sense of inadequacy, or inferiority. When Jesus willed us the use of His name, all the authority of heaven backs it.

Our enemies are called by specific names in the Scriptures. For example: "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities [*archas*, the preeminent ones], against powers [*exousias*, the authorities]" (Eph. 6:12). As spirit creatures, their power is far superiour to ours, naturally. If Jesus left us to withstand them with our natural strength, they would destroy us, but He didn't. Behind our authority is a Power infinitely greater than anything that backs the enemy's, and which they are compelled to recognize, the power and authority of the reigning Christ!

General Wainwright recalled his time of immense suffering in a Manchurian concentration camp after the fall of Bataan in World War II. There were several Japanese guards who tormented him daily, out of plain meanness. He was subjected to unforgettable atrocities. Half-starved, without proper nutrition, he soon became a skeleton, a broken, helpless, crushed, abused, trapped shadow of the powerful commander he once was. No one would have recognized him as his



enemy captors rubbed his face in the mud as a game.

One day an airplane landed at the prison camp and without fanfare a Colonel from the General's own staff marched into camp and joyfully informed Wainwright that Japan had unconditionally surrendered. Nationally she was defeated, her pride shattered, and her military might destroyed. He was to assume full control of the prison that had held him captive for so long. Once the message was delivered, the Colonel left.

Later that same day when his tormentors, apparently unaware of what had happened, returned to ridicule and mock him, he barked, "I'm in command here now!" Through frail but terse lips he said, "These are MY orders. Japan has been soundly defeated and all your authority over me has been cancelled . . . You obey me, now!"

Shocked, almost to the point of disbelief, the guards knew that somehow he had been informed of their defeat, and submitted without any struggle or motor-mouthing. From that moment, the "prisoner" was in command! The force behind his authoritative words was no longer the emaciated shell of a dying man, but the might and power of the conquering Allied Forces. Now that Wainwright knew who he was, it would have been futile for the Japanese to resist any longer. Physically, they were stronger, but he now had the authority. It would have been foolhardy for General Wainwright to neglect acting on his liberation and remain a captive.

And so it was with another Conqueror. When Jesus ascended He said, "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18), and promptly conferred that authority to His Church. He ascended on high as the Head of the Body and "put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22). This isn't something He is *going to do*; it's something HE'S ALREADY DONE! He now sits at the right hand of the Father, the place of supreme authority, delegating that authority to His people on earth.

Without an accurate knowledge of our relationship with Him, we can't hope to exercise our dominion over the conflicts of life. We're prisoners within our own ignorance or refusal to act on the Good News of the enemy's total defeat. Wainwright could have remained a prisoner even though the enemy forces had been defeated. We can remain captive to Satan for the same reason. That's why Hosea's statement, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6), is still applicable today.

In Biblical times, two committed friends bound themselves together with a sacred oath called a *Berith* that included their unborn children. When those

children were born and reached maturity, they legally drew upon the promises made by their fathers years before. Having made their vows, the two men clasped their hands while the blood from their scarred wrists mingled, making them blood brothers. Their mutual scars were a memorial all their natural lives.

Many years passed. Jonathan, one of these young men was killed in war, leaving an infant son Mephibosheth. When word came to his home that he was dead, a startled nurse dropped the boy, leaving him crippled and paralyzed in both legs.

Mephibosheth learned to endure his handicap, although it wasn't easy to drag himself along. At the same time, he was raised to be loyal to his grand- father's image and grew up passionately hating the man who took his grand- father's throne. To complicate the triangle, the young man who became king was the other partner in his father's blood covenant.

Now that he was king, David remembered the covenant he made with Jonathan. "Is there anyone left of Jonathan's household?" he inquired of his staff.

"Just one child," a servant said.

"Bring him here to me, immediately," David ordered. Being a king, with a palace, wealth, and unlimited power, he could do as he wished.

They finally found him through an old servant, Ziba. Having never known David, crippled Mephibosheth had no way of knowing what to expect, except death as heir of the disposed monarch. "I am a dead dog," he whimpered (a Hebrew way of admitting he was less than nothing).

"Mephibosheth, you are Jonathan's son and, therefore, part of my blood covenant I cut with your father whom I loved. All that I have is yours. You've been a 'king's kid' in exile. I'm returning to you all of your father's lost possessions! "

It was a positive action based on faithfulness and love before he was born. As long as he groveled in the dust like a beggar, he was no different than a beggar, even though he was actually heir to vast wealth and authority. He didn't know of them, so he couldn't act on them. I trust you are not like him!

## POWER TO THE BELIEVER

Our problem is that we've allowed Satan to psyche us out and we've listened to too many expositors. If we'd believe the Word rather than dispensationally analyzing it for "deeper truth," it would work exactly as Jesus promised it would. "My words are spirit and they are life," He said, not sources for endless word studies.

We've been so thoroughly indoctrinated into believing that we have nothing, and we are nothing, that we have finally got everyone believing us.

"I'm just a poor little old nothing, just a poor old sinner saved by grace. Don't expect me to help you when I need all the help I can get."

Peter certainly had a different attitude. "Look at us!" he ordered the lame man at the temple. "Such as I have I give to you." And the lame man leaped up and walked. In fact, he danced into the temple service creating an unorthodox commotion. Is it any wonder Peter had results while we flounder? He believed in the authority Jesus gave him. He believed he could, so he did. We don't believe we can, and sure enough, our faith in failure works, too! Harald Bredesen once said, "If you try to preach Peter's Gospel without Peter's power, you'll soon peter out!"

Lest some of you dismiss Peter's remarks as those belonging to a once-for-all apostle, turn to his second epistle, Chapter One and verse one and note what he says: ". . .to those who have received a faith of the *same kind as ours, by the righteousness* of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ." Any believer can do the same things Peter did when that believer acts on the Word Peter acted on.

## WHAT IS THIS?

When Herod heard what the twelve were doing, he was deeply disturbed. Obviously convicted of his sin, having beheaded John the Baptist, he questioned some of his staff. “Is it true that John has risen from the dead?” Behind his self-controlled veneer he had a right to be fearful: “If this was John, back from the dead, and I ordered his death, what will he do to me?”

“Some have said that John has been raised, my lord,” the servant replied; “some have said it is Elijah who was supposed to appear; and others, that one of the prophets has risen.”

Don’t be fearful, Herod, mystical Moses hasn’t returned to do those things! Nor has enthusiastic Elijah appeared. You should feel badly about murdering John, but it isn’t him. Who is it? Just plain old Peter, an obscure fisherman, who got hooked up with the Nazarene. No, he isn’t some special kind of saint, nor will he ever be. In fact, he’s rather impetuous and prone to motor- mouthing and mistakes. Where did he get such authority? The same place any believer can, IN CHRIST!

Anyone, without knowing Christ as his Lord, may exercise a measure of human authority in certain areas due to his position among men, but it won’t work in the spiritual realms. He could no more take dominion over demons and the work of Satan than he can change his nature. They would turn on him as quickly as they turned on the seven sons of Sceva when they tried to cast them out by following Paul’s example, but not Paul’s Lord!

The Christian disciple, however, operates under a different set of principles:

To them Jesus says, “If *you* say to this mountain, be removed and cast into the sea, and don’t doubt in *your* heart, you’ll have what you say” (Mark 11:23). This authorizes the individual believer to determine his own success by his words and actions. But unless he believes it will work for him, it won’t! He must not doubt in his heart.

To them Jesus says, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not overpower it” (Matt. 16:18). This Word authorizes the Body of believers to corporately wage war against the spiritual powers and authorities who make up the gates of hell. Although they may be mightier in power, Jesus said, “I’m giving you authority that is so vastly superior that when you approach the authorities of hell, they’ll retreat every time. And you’ll go in and set their captives free. ”

To them Jesus says, “Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in

heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven” (Matt. 16:19). This Word authorizes both the church and the individual to act in His stead, manifesting the very forgiving, delivering nature of Christ in you, the hope of glory! Lest some of you are still hung up on whether or not this belongs exclusively to brother Peter, turn to John 20:22-23 and listen while the Lord instructs all of His disciples on the night of the resurrection.

**"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."**

If the promise of the Holy Spirit was for every believer, and it was (Acts 2:38, 39), so is the authority that accompanies it!

To every believer Jesus says, “He who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go to the Father” (John 14:12 NAS). If he were addressing the twelve He would have used plural pronouns, but notice that the authorization is for the person who believes. He.. .he.. .he.. .will do them, but he must believe his authority is real.

To the believers Paul wrote, “For we are labourers together with God” (1Cor. 3:9). If the believer is co-working with the Deity, then the power and authority of the Deity works with him. “For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).

To the believers Peter said, “Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness . . . ” (2 Pet. 1:3). And finally John, in his first epistle, Chapter four, verse four, wrote, “Greater is he that is in you, than he who is in the world.”

I say this reverently, but I say it, *every believer has the same spiritual authorization that Jesus had.*

**THEY HAVE THE SAME WORD:** In Luke 4:32, we read that “they were astonished at His doctrine; for His word was with authority.” He not only preached with positiveness, but he immediately demonstrated the power of that word: “For I have given unto them the words which you have given Me . . . ” (John 17:8), and “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31, 32 NAS).

The same liberating Word, spoken with absolute authority has been given to us. When used in your mouth, flowing from your heart of faith, it will work as well for you. No room for failure here! For you to fail, His work will have to fail!

**THEY HAVE THE SAME COMMISSION:** Jesus prayed in John 17:18 (NAS), “As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the

world.” The purpose of Jesus’ coming to earth is also the reason for our calling; so in Matthew 28:18-20 (NAS), Jesus physically leaves His people for awhile with: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . . teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.”

**THEY HAVE THE SAME LOVE TO MOTIVATE THEM:**

“Thou. . . didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me” (John 17:23). “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you . . . ” (John 15:9).

**THEY HAVE THE SAME GLORY:** “And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them. . . ” (John 17:22). This bothered me for many years, having been trained in “humility.” Whenever anyone congratulated me for a good message, I’d shy away and say, “I didn’t do it! Give God the glory!”

Then one day the Spirit fairly shouted at me, “Trombley! You’re not another; you’re God’s, and He’ll give you His glory if He wants to; so stop fighting Him!” He carefully reminded me, though, that I should return the praise to Him at the close of each day, lest the “merchandise” ruin me as it did Satan. *That glory is God’s manifest presence among men.* “And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 2:14 NAS). Christ’s glory was God’s glory and They shared it with us. Glory!

**WE ENJOY THE SAME SONSHIP PRIVILEGES:** “He also predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29 NAS). In 1 John 3:1-2 (NAS), this truth is sealed with the Spirit’s signet: “*See, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God, AND SUCH WE ARE. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*”

We’ll enjoy the same rewards, victories, and fellowship with the Father, as well as the battles now. Acknowledging your authority won’t make you immune to satanic warfare; in fact, it will increase it. Whatsoever you claim must be challenged. Only what you put your foot on will you experimentally possess. But you’ll win! You may lose a battle here and there, but you’ll win the war! Read the last chapter of the Book of Books for the outcome!

The spiritual principles behind this authority are as uncomplicated as “1 plus 1 equals 2.”

- 1) Christ Jesus is Lord and was manifested to destroy all the works of the evil (1 John 3:8).
- 2) He successfully bruised the serpent’s head, his authority, on the cross



Hebrews 2:14).

3) Thereby fulfilling the first prophetic promise in Scripture (Genesis 15).

4) Having spoiled principalities, authorities, He made a public display of them openly, triumphing over them in His cross (Colossians 2:15).

5) All believers are, therefore, released from satanic control and delivered into the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13).

This was the purpose behind His coming. Everything else logically falls into place, inevitable flowing from His crowning achievement.

Each believer should quickly step into this victory the moment he makes Christ his Lord and begins walking in Kingdom principles (John 1:12). Because all authority, in heaven and on earth, has been conferred on Jesus, He freely invites you to share that authority as a joint-heir with Him.

Satan doesn't want you to know or appropriate this dominion. He knows that when you discover his total defeat, who you are, and why you're here, his day of running you around is over. Like Gulliver, you'll snap the frail threads of his usurped power that binds you, and rising in the freedom of truth, begin to dominate him! In that day, his kingdom will be divided and fall. If he is allowed to operate unrestrained and unopposed, he will eventually reduce all creation to a chaotic mass of putrified filth, a living hell. But he won't! If one is putting 1,000 to flight, then two can put 10,000 to flight, or as the late F.F. Bosworth once said, "The weakest Christian can become a devil master over- night."

### 3: WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?

*“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God for the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death” (Rev. 12:10-11 NAS).*

Was Calvary a true victory or was it a defeat?

Which of the endless interpretations and revelations of the widely-differing and often-opinionated theologians is correct, if any? The “unlimited acceptance of a limited atonement,” or “a limited acceptance of an unlimited atonement” often leaves NO place for “an unlimited acceptance of an unlimited atonement”!

What was the purpose of the Incarnation? Exactly what was included in that consequential mission and where does Satan fit into it? In fact, what is the atonement and how does it relate to the New Covenant?

During a seminar in North Carolina a few weeks ago, I asked this question to several hundred people and received several answers.

“He came to save sinners,” was the most frequent answer.

“That’s true,” one replied, “but why?”

“Well, Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost,” another answered. There’s no argument about that fact, but “lost” from what?

“He came to give us life”; to which I asked, “What kind of life and when?” An “informed” Bible student then waxed eloquent, showing me that “He came to take out a people for His name,” and promptly proceeded to give a dissertation on what that name was.

“Don’t you know?” another questioned, “He came to fulfill the Law, do away with it so we may live under grace.”

When still another suggested, “He came because He loved us,” I stopped the answers.

Each of their “opinions” of WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH, had a small kernel of truth in it, but not one of them was inclusive or particular. Not one of them said, “For *this* reason” Jesus came to earth, and did you notice that you probably embraced one or more of the stated answers?

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTIANITY FINDS ITS ULTIMATE GROUND IN OUR PERSONAL CONCEPT OF THE ATONEMENT. The present ministry of Christ and His Body hinges on our **laying hold of** and

**appropriating** the fact of His Atonement as the basis of our authority. Until this is firmly established, the believers find themselves "carried about by every wind of doctrine." Consequently, Satan harasses them and tosses them about on a sea of confusion and uncertainty, trying to convince them he'll kill them with a hangnail, if they're not careful! Rather than crowing like the militant victor they are, they sneak around like cowered slaves in a misplaced world!

WHY DID JESUS LEAVE ETERNITY AND THE EQUAL GLORY HE SHARED WITH THE FATHER, TO HUMILIATE HIMSELF BY TAKING ON THE FORM OF FRAIL MAN, SUFFERING SORROW, PAIN, SIN, AND DEATH, WHEN HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T HAVE TO, AT LEAST NOT FOR HIMSELF?

One of the first places I went to for the answer was the theologians in my library. I still stand amazed at the myriad "opinions" held by the various sects.

One said Jesus died as an *example* for us. Another explained that He lived and died to *satisfy* God's wrath, so that men might have a perfect sacrifice with which to approach a Holy God. Still another posed his own question, "Did Jesus die to *pay the ransom* price demanded by the devil?" He never answered his own question!

One of the major cults insisted Jesus' ransom paid for Adam's transgression, purchasing back what he lost; namely, perfect life on earth, thereby freeing man to prove himself worthy of gaining salvation according to the religious dictates of that denomination. One writer informed me that the Sovereign God elected, predestinated, and selected certain ones to be redeemed, while rejecting the rest of mankind.

What these scholars have done is to expose their personal concept of the Lord and their idea of Redemption as it directly relates to both the nature and purpose of God. True, they all reflect some concept of His nature, but not one of them declared the Scriptural reason of WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH!

One fact emerged: Christ's triumphant victory was more than just defeating sin, unrighteousness, and death subjectively, but objectively bringing to birth true righteousness, life and fellowship. His violent regaining of the Kingdom was more than merely dethroning Satan, but occupying the realms of his dominion and reoccupying the places he held by usurped authority (Ephesians 6:12).

At a seminar, I asked a beautiful saint, why Jesus filled her with the Holy Spirit. She belonged to an order but I didn't ask which one.

"Oh, in order to make us deeper," she answered. I didn't dare press the

question any further.

The underlying purpose of the current Charismatic renewal and empowering is the final preparation for the end-time thrust when “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church TO the rulers and the authorities in heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10 NAS).

Regardless of our particular religious discipline, every part of Christendom, as well as the cults, is being shaken. Relevant messages on faith, the release of true praise, the enabling walk in daily victory, the positive emphasis on true witnessing, the charismata and body ministry through the local fellowship, are all part of this equipping.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

If we asked Dr. Luke why Jesus came to earth, he would undoubtedly quote from his own gospel. “When a strong man fully armed guards his own homestead, his possessions are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armour on which he had relied, and distributes his plunder. He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who doesn’t gather with Me, scatters” (Luke 11:21-23 NAS).

When asked to elaborate, Dr. Luke would assure us that the strong man was j Satan who carefully protects his possessions, the dominion and authority which he subliminally captured from Adam without any fear of his counterattack. Jesus, however, is the stronger one, who comes to legally overpower him, and dispossess his most prized holdings, and ultimately restores that same authority back to man who lost it in the beginning. He who doesn’t stand with Jesus in His battle against Satan, automatically scatters due to Satan’s continued harassment. All men must choose sides.

It’s possible that he would explain that the context for his revelation came when Jesus exorcised an evil spirit and equated the man’s new freedom with the kingdom of God. “But, if I cast out evil spirits by the finger of God, *then* the kingdom of God is come to you,” because you now have a new Lord! In other words, Luke might continue, “If you haven’t been delivered from Satan’s dominion, you are not yet in the kingdom of God. All men are controlled by one of two masters!”

If we asked John the same question, I am certain that he would also turn to his letter. “For this purpose the Son of man was manifested to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). And quite possibly, Chapter Twelve of the Revelation: “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night” (v. 12).

Of all the Scriptural writers, John is the most specific and revolutionary in his statement: FOR THIS PURPOSE ... TO DESTROY . . . ALL THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL (1 John 3:8). There isn’t any need whatsoever to twist his words. They mean exactly what they are intended to say.

Let’s ask Paul why he thinks Jesus came to earth.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself," he would say, “not counting their trespasses against them ” (2 Cor. 5:9, NAS). Or, he might turn to Colossians 1:13: “For He delivered us from the dominion of darkneses, and

transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”

There doesn't seem to be any confusion in what they had to say. They all agree perfectly on why Jesus came to earth.



## LET'S ASK THE CHURCH FATHERS!

*Ut guid enim descendebat?* asks Irenaeus, the bishop of Lyons, Gaul, one of the earlier church fathers. He was a contemporary with Polycarp who sat at the feet of John the Apostle and others close to the original apostles.

‘For what purpose did Christ come down from heaven? That he might destroy sin, overcome death, and give life to man. Man had been created that he might have life. If now, having lost life, and having been harmed by the serpent, he were not to return to life, but was wholly abandoned to death, then God would have been defeated, and the malice of the serpent would have become God’s will . . . But through the Second Man He bound the strong one, and spoiled his goods, and annihilated death, bringing life to man who had become subject to death. FOR ADAM HAD BECOME THE DEVIL’S POSSESSION, and the devil held him under his power . . . Wherefore, he who had taken man captive was set free from the bondage of condemnation.” *Against Heresies, II, 23.1, 125-202 A. D.*

The nearer we can get to the original sources, the less chance there is of error. Yet our Lord’s messages to the “seven churches of Asia” in Revelations Chapters Two and Three, show that before 100 A.D. error had already begun.

By the time of Origen (185-254), philosophy had begun its punctilious work of clouding simple truth. Throughout his ministry, he held to a basic allegiance to most apostolic truth, except when he pondered the meaning of Paul’s use of the word, “ransom.”

It comes from a Greek word, *lutron*, meaning “a loosing.” “In the Septuagint it always implies equivalence, or a corresponding price, a substitute,” W A. Vine tells us. Well, that’s all right, because it’s in perfect harmony with the Old Testament sacrifices. The innocent taking the place of the guilty, thereby cancelling the penalty and debt of the guilty one.

Because the Law in Leviticus 25:47-49 demanded “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, ” or the law of a corresponding price, there isn’t any way that “ransom” can be misconstrued. In no way does this suggest paying a ransom, but rather a simple transaction according to God’s Holy Law. That which is unpaid must be paid! That which is lost must be redeemed by something of like value. Never a ransom, but a legal debt paid in full.

Origen assumed that Christ’s death was a tribute paid to Satan cancelling the just claims which he held on man. Most modern writers reject his concept, and so do I!

Let's move toward the Fifth Century and ask Pope Leo the Great why he thinks Jesus came to earth and hear what he has to say. He was crowned supreme pontiff in 440 A.D., and spent most of his reign battling heresies.

"The sole aim of all Christ did and suffered was our salvation, and the communication of his members of the power that belongs to Him as head."  
*Sermon XV on the Passion.*

If it's all right, Pope Leo, may we put on our shouting shoes with you? Any man that can preach truth like that deserves a hearty, "Amen!"

A recent book, *The Binding Of The Strong Man*, by Word of Life Publishers, contains excerpts from some of Pope Leo's messages, proving beyond any doubt that he kept faith with the patristic teaching of the Scriptures.

He continues by elaborating on the actual confrontation between the Lord of heaven and Satan, the conquest of both sin and death as a *past* accomplishment, the authority of God's Word, and the present Lordship of Christ, and he proclaimed these mighty Bible truths with all the spiritual authority possible, knowing he was in absolute harmony with both Scripture and the apostles.

Do you see that for more than 500 years this unblemished Gospel never changed! "He has already delivered us from the authority and dominion of darkness" because Christ Jesus totally rendered harmless and powerless, Satan and all of his works.

They were so excited with such Good News and their desire to share Christ with the whole world, they had, it is said, "no developed doctrine of the Atonement, as such."

"Such a simplistic theology isn't any theology at all," the critics said, yet it was held by nearly all the reputable church fathers, finding it in the works of Ambrose, Augustine, Leo the Great, Gregory the Great and others, whose theological importance set the tone for 1,000 years.

## A NEW THEOLOGY IS BORN

What happened that produced the multi-headed vehicle of defeated confusion called the church today? May I indulge in a few minutes of “dry” history, but absolutely necessary, if you are going to see where we’re going. Don’t pass over it, please, but inform yourself!

History, according to Gustaf Aulen in his work, *Christus Victor*, records that the patristic or classic view of the Atonement lasted until 1000 A.D., when Anselm of Canterbury wrote his book *Cur Deus Homo*? In it he repressed the old, accepted mythological account of Christ’s work as a victory over the devil, and gave way to his teaching of a deliverance from the guilt of sin; and, above all, an objective atonement wherein God is the object of Christ’s atoning work.

In other words, Christ did not come to destroy the works of the devil, but to “satisfy” an offended God. It wasn’t original. Tertullian (150-230 A.D.) departed from the church and became a disciple of Montanus, founder of a cult that stressed ecstatic prophecy and severe asceticism in immediate expectation of Judgment Day. Any Christian who falls from grace couldn’t be redeemed, he taught. As a sect it was dead by 220 A.D.

In his writings, we find the origin of “satisfaction and merit.” “Satisfaction,” Tertullian writes, “is the compensation which a man makes *for his faults*. . . . How absurd it is to leave the Penance unperformed, and yet to expect forgiveness of sin!” Thus, Penance is satisfaction. According to him, lasting, voluntary celibacy, martyrdom, and so forth, make it possible for men to earn an overplus of merit.

Taking this thought, Cyprian, who followed Tertullian, applied this overplus of merit earned by Christ to man, thereby making Christ’s work a work of satisfaction. Both men taught that Penance centers around the satisfaction made BY and FOR sin and the idea of merit; although Cyprian was the first to apply it directly to the Atonement.

So the seeds of “satisfaction” and “merit” were sown. Anselm’s teachings has no organic connection between the Incarnation and the Atonement. What he rationally sought for was a man, free from sin and guilt, who was able to offer himself as an acceptable sacrifice to God. So Christ became that man, paying the satisfaction to His own divine nature. He, from man’s side, offers Himself a perfect sacrifice to God. Man didn’t need a new Lord; man didn’t need deliverance from Satan’s work; man didn’t need authority as the principal benefit of the Atonement; man needed a perfect sacrifice. That is why it is called “the

satisfaction theory.” What it amounted to, was merely a tradeoff of Christ’s merits for man and eventually opened a sticky keg of indulgences, Penances, and works of salvation.

Still others have attempted to answer the question differently.

Abeland gave us the moral influence view. Christ’s death merely revealed the love of God for a fallen race and the resulting moral influence of His sacrificial acts on the hearts of men, causing them to recognize their failures and the necessity of trusting Christ. It rules out the vicarious Atonement, the conquering of Satan and the penalty of sin. His teachings were condemned in 1121, but his logical methods as applied to faith remain.

Without laboring the point, perhaps one more view should be pointed out. Out of anti-trinitarianism and Unitarianism came Faustus Socinus, and his example theory. God wasn’t as much concerned about punishing sin as establishing obedience in lives. Satan’s authority and the penal aspects of judgment are carefully avoided in his theology. By obedience to Christ’s example and selflessness, men may find peace with God and themselves. Imitate Jesus and you’ll be okay! The problem is, no one, but no one, can imitate Jesus’ example of life, so how can we then benefit from His example and death? This gave rise to the modern liberal social action religion.

Beginning with Anselm, a complete line can be traced through the medieval mysticism and ignorance, to the Reformation (where Luther reverted to the patristic, Biblical view of the Atonement; although his successors floundered and returned to Anselm), and finally into Protestant Orthodoxy during the Seventeenth Century. Consequently, Anselm’s influence greatly altered both the mission and victory of the Church. He strongly insisted the change always took place IN MAN, rather than in a changed attitude on the part of the Almighty. God always remains aloof, while man seeks Him and rarely finds Him. Such a system of thought has always been acceptable to man, being the basis for nearly every religion that exists. Man must work out his own salvation, man must believe correctly, and man must achieve a certain measure to satisfy the judgmental justice of God.

While none of these human gropings are complete, each does contain some germ of truth. A modern writer has said, “All error is simply truth out of focus.”

Of course, Christ’s death was a ransom for the sins of the whole world (1 Timothy 2:6). It WAS a reconciliation wherein God is both the Reconciler and the Reconciled (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19; Colossians 2:13). No one will question for a moment that the Atonement exerts a life-changing moral influence on

men's lives, nor that He was truly our example and we are exhorted by Peter to "walk in His footsteps closely," but such an attempt at a copying the Master will never free us from guilt, sin, or death, nor the power of the devil. Although we should listen to teachers and theologians neither are they the final authority. Only God's Word settles the issue.

Finally, a word on *Katallage*, the Greek work for "reconcile." It is far more than the simple at-one-ment, popularized by C.T. Russell, the *Watchtower* founder. It is, rather, a revolutionary fact that God was IN Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. From Incarnation to Ascension, for this purpose the Son of man was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil, and now, we who were all our life time subject to sin, sickness, death, and Satan, have already been delivered from his domain of darkness, and already been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. "IT IS FINISHED!" Jesus cried. A perfect satisfaction has been provided, the Law has been fulfilled, the penalty paid, and its demands on man cancelled. Therefore, man is free to enter the presence of the Almighty, Who has now become his father, without any fear of inferiority, condemnation, unrighteousness, or fear. Christ came to set men free!

## 4: WHAT ARE SATAN'S WORKS?

From what we've discovered thus far, there seems to be a common denominator trailing its way through the maze of religious confusion. Satan had a kingdom; Jesus has a kingdom; and man has a choice between the two. Man will submit to one or the other of the kingdoms, depending on his knowledge. At the same time, we've seen that the determining factor wasn't man's, but God's. He so loved; He gave; He came; He reconciled; He conquered Satan, not for Himself, but for man. God doesn't ask man, nor does He expect man, to provide his own righteousness with which to satisfy His justice. God in Christ removes the curse once, forever; thereby offering man a new beginning, under new rulership called the Kingdom of God.

**“The Son of God appeared [or, was manifested in the Incarnation] for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil”** (1 John 3:8). Since the children are sharers in flesh and blood, he also in like manner partook of the same; that through death He might bring to naught him that *had* the authority of death, that is, the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

If we'll take Scripture as a whole, we'll have the conclusive answer to our question. Two obvious facts emerge from these passages:

1. Jesus was manifested in order to *destroy* the works of the devil, and
2. to bring to naught him that *had* the authority of death. Both the cause and the effect are dissolved.

The Greek word translated “destroy” means to “loose” and being in a future tense, it refers to the purpose of Jesus' Incarnation. In 1 John 3:8, *luo is*, literally “he might undo, dissolve, loose, break, or demolish.” All are words of completeness. When Jesus was born, the “loosing” was still future, but from the cross He cried, “It is finished!” Either He did, or He cried a lie! Did He do it, or was He mistaken?

# SATAN'S WORKS

1 John 3:8 explains the context. "The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning." Now balance this with verse seven: "the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." This amplifies what Paul meant in Romans 6:16 (NAS), "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness."

Satan's work then is what it has always been from the beginning. It included not only spiritual death, which manifests itself through man's unregenerated nature, the seed of insubordination in all of us prior to the new birth, but the results of the "law of sin," also. There isn't any evidence that Jesus came to loose man from the guilt of his sin, but allowed the works to remain. Rather, He reduced Satan and his dominion to a total nothing! One writer, Judson Cornwall, said, "Jesus reduced the devil to a zero and then knocked the rim off!" Both spiritual death resulting from the broken Law, as well as "the things" stemming from that transgression, are included in those paralyzed works. **WE HAVE AN UNLIMITED ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNLIMITED ATONEMENT!**

If we took the time to list all the "works" of Satan, we'd probably fill a room with lists, but that isn't necessary. It's quite possible to categorize them into several inclusive areas.

**SIN:** which is the "law of sin" (Rom. 8:2), is the source of any and all manifestations of that compulsive law. For example: here is a list of what the "law of sin" produces:

"There is none *righteous*, not even one,  
There is none who *understands*,  
There is none who *seeks* for God,  
All have turned aside, together they have become *useless*.  
There is none who *does good*,  
There is not even one.  
Their throats are open sepulchres,  
They use their *tongues* for deceit,  
Under their *lips* is the poison of asps,  
They *curse* with bitterness,  
They *shed* blood,

They *destroy* and are miserable,  
They *know* no peace,  
They do not *fear* God” (Rom. 3:10-18).

These thirteen condemnatory characteristics accurately paint a portrait of man without God and controlled by the “law of sin.” This is the unsaved man on the streets, a slave and servant to Satan, who works his own will in the “children of disobedience.” He may be a church-goer, he may be religious, he may be an agnostic or atheist, or a gentle humanist, but these characteristics from Scripture describe him perfectly.

**SICKNESS:** as the first cousin of sin, also, had to be rendered powerless. An understanding of this aspect of Satan’s work will satisfactorily remove all doubt as to what the will of God is in regard to physical healing. The question with most people isn’t whether or not God *can* heal, but *will* He heal? It’s obvious the Creator of our bodies is fully capable of healing, no one doubts that. But does He choose to do this, and if so, under what conditions? Can everyone lay claim to the healing promises? If the Word, which is our only satisfactory and safe answer, declares that it isn’t God’s will to heal *all* or *any* of the sick, then that is the end of the matter and any further hope in that direction is useless speculation. On the other hand, if the Word of God clearly states that it is His will to heal all, then we don’t dare question or doubt.

**God’s covenant of healing with Israel.** In Exodus 15:22-26, we learn that one of the first acts of God for Israel after He brought them out of Egypt’s slavery, was to give them the covenant of healing. He intended that it become a permanent part of their blessings and guaranteed His part by making it “a statute and an ordinance” for them. There were conditions, of course, that hinged upon their obedience to His commandments.

Any covenant is a two-sided agreement or contract. “If you will do your part,” God said, “I’ll do mine! Keep My statutes, which insures your remaining part of My earthly kingdom, and I’ll be your physician!” In fact, the covenant went beyond just providing healing, but guaranteed that if they walked faithfully with the Lord, “None of these diseases which were put on the Egyptians will come on you.” That is some guarantee! If you get sick, I’ll heal you and if you walk in obedience, I won’t even let you get sick at all!

This was His preventive medicine, which I’ve heard called, God’s “gos- pill.” Sickness, from the first mention of the healing covenant, is directly rooted in disobedience when one walks outside of the law of God.

**God’s revelation of the cause of sickness.** Solomon wrote in Proverbs, “The



curse causeless shall not come.” And in Deuteronomy 28:15, 22, 27-28, we see that God specifically links sickness with disobedience.

**But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God . . .**

**The Lord shall smite thee with consumption, with a fever, and an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, with blasting and mildew.**

**And the Lord shall smite thee with the blotch of Egypt, with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. The Lord shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart.**

Remember now that this wasn't spoken to the heathen, but to His chosen people. When Solomon dedicated the temple, he included in his prayer a statement that “should sicknesses come upon Israel as a result of sin, that confession, prayer, and supplication should be made so that the curse might be removed” (1 Kings 8:33-40).

What man accepts as an unfortunate, but normal, part of life, God calls the “curse.”

**Jesus revelation of the cause of sickness.** When Jesus healed the palsied man in Mark 2:5, He said, “Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.” Some of the scribes sitting nearby became violently indignant.

“Who can forgive sins but God alone,” they demanded. “Just who do you think you are?”

“Why are you so uptight and reasoning such unbelief in your hearts?” He asked, “Which is easier to say, Your sins be forgiven, or Rise, take up your bed and walk”?

Time hasn't changed men. Many today still refuse to accept the connection between sin and sicknesses. They'll acknowledge that Jesus can forgive sin, but refuse to allow Him the liberty to heal the sicknesses caused by that sin. The Pharisees, reluctantly, acknowledged that Jesus could heal, but refused the possibility that He could forgive sin. Which unbelief is worse?

It was Peter who preached “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing *all* who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

The sick, who were healed by the Lord, suffered under the oppressive heel of Satan. To dismiss this by saying, “He healed those who were spiritually

oppressed by sin,” is totally avoiding the issue. If Peter meant that, why didn’t he say that? It has been estimated that as much as two-thirds of Jesus’ ministry was to the physically sick and afflicted.

**“And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed, and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill” (Matt. 8:16).**

Why did He do this? In order that Isaiah’s prophecy might be fulfilled, saying, “He himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases” (Isa. 53:4).

This prophecy that states “He has carried away our diseases,” also includes:

“Our sicknesses”

“Our pains”

“Our transgressions”

“Our iniquities”

“Our peace”

“Our healing,” for *by His stripes we are healed*.

One objecting writer said that Matthew 8:17 can’t refer to the Atonement because Christ wasn’t crucified yet and it would make His life an atoning life. This isn’t any objection at all! Christ was the “Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.” It was this prophetic objection of Deity that made the Old Testament sacrifices acceptable to God. Further, everything Calvary provided was practiced by Jesus before His death. He forgave sins before the Cross, although the Book of Hebrews says “without the shedding of blood there is NO remission of sins.” At the same time He healed the sick, since both of these blessings were secured on the ground of Redemption.

What Matthew 8:17 proves is this;

By healing the sick, He fulfilled Isaiah’s redemptive prophecies. In those healings, we can observe all the “works” of Satan that He came to “destroy” (undo, dissolve, loose, break, or demolish). Who cares WHEN, as long as they are gone?

One letter-writer asks, “What are the punishments of sin but soul-condemnation, remorse, mental anxiety and breakdowns, guilt and a host of other ills, and, frequently by sicknesses?” “Why,” he continues, “are all of these nasty effects remitted because of Christ’s victory on the Cross, except the last one? What rule of Scripture or reason allows the last effect of sin or sickness to remain separate from the rest? Is it possible that God forgives and delivers from the guilt and penalty of sin, except one, sicknesses?”

My answer was, “Of course not! Isaiah categorically stated that our sicknesses, pains, transgressions and iniquities were IN Him.” So we see clearly that SICKNESSES were one of the “works” of the devil that Jesus came to loose, dissolve, destroy, and render inactive.

**POVERTY:** includes all of man’s needs. Jesus said, “The poor you have with you always,” and God has a special place in His heart for them. “He that hath pity on the poor lends to the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again” (Prov. 19:17). The man that shuts up his heart to the poor is in trouble with the Lord, but he that considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble (Proverbs 14:31).

Why should God have this attitude of pity toward the poor and destitute?

Throughout Scripture, poverty and lack are equated with laziness (Proverbs 6:10); stinginess (Proverbs 11:24); love of pleasure (Proverbs 21:17); drunkenness and gluttony (Proverbs 23:21); evil associations (Proverbs 28:19); and the inherited judgment heaped upon foolish parents.

ALL these vices, these egocentric motivators, are but a revelation of Satan’s selfish nature. He was a murderer and a liar from the beginning, Jesus said.

The best way to understand Satan is to see what he does to and through man. As he “works” through captive man, he impudently manifests his nature. “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy” (John 10:10).

Satan can’t hurt God personally, so he attacks the nearest thing to His heart, His captive children. Little wonder then why Jehovah God is concerned about how men treat one another. That’s why God is concerned with the poor and needy. He knows who is behind their problems.

Until the Christ would come, it was God who gave power to get wealth, both to establish His covenant and to care for the needy (Deuteronomy 8:18). “Pure religion before God and man is to care for the fatherless and the widows in their affliction,” the Apostle James wrote.

The basic cause of poverty is “the law of sin,” but this doesn’t include those who “by faith” deliberately go without for the sake of the Gospel. Hebrews 11:37-39 tells us: “They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated . . . wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.”

BUT they all gained God’s approval because their destitution was an act of their faith. They could have accepted deliverance, which only comes by active faith, but “by faith” they passed it by. They didn’t receive what was promised,

although they could have, because God provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect!

Poverty was a work of the devil, and Jesus was manifested to loose man from it.

**DEMONS AND EVIL SPIRITS** who are under the direct command of Satan, through his government, carry out his specific orders, particularly in the realm of emotional and mental disease.

Every national government, every local government, and local area has its own spirit ruler according to Daniel 10:13. The Apostle Paul declares that our conflict isn't against "flesh and blood, but against principalities, and powers, and world rulers of this darkness." So we see there are differing degrees of demonic dominion.

One of the first lessons I learned in overseas evangelism is that "the strong man must first be bound." The spirit who controls that area must be recognized, and then full authority taken over him. Otherwise, any Word of God done there won't last. He simply returns and makes a second claim. The reason for this is made clear in 1 John 3:10 and the Gospel of John (8:44) where Satan is called the spiritual father of the human race: "Ye are of your father the devil," and, "in this are manifest the children of God and the children of the devil." John also stated in 1 John 5:19 that the "WHOLE RACE lies in the embrace of the wicked one."

Because no angel is omnipresent (present everywhere at the same time as Jehovah God) Satan must rely on his vast network of evil spirits regimented into a great army. He is personally limited as to knowledge, ability, and power; he is still an angel!

God is an omnipresent spirit, and has angels who are sent forth "as ministers of light and blessing to the heirs of salvation." Satan, on the other hand, has to dispatch his hoards of spirits to do his dirty work. Rather than blessing, they destroy! Rather than helping, they hinder! Rather than healing, they afflict! Therefore, as the workers of the devil's work program, they are to be rendered powerless.

**DEATH:** Man was not born to die; but to live. "For through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Rom. 5:12 NAS).

No one questions for a second that death is a work of the devil and must be destroyed (Hebrews 2:14).

Under these five classifications, we can qualify all the "works" of the devil.

They all MUST be destroyed before man can be effectively delivered into the kingdom of the Son (Colossians 1:13). But what good would it have done merely to cancel the works as long as the source remains in control? Wouldn't Satan begin all over again? If left in that condition, yes! But he wasn't!

"Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might [*katargese*] render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14 NAS).

The verb in this passage is different from the one in 1 John 3:8 *Katargese* means to "reduce to inactivity," while 1 John says Jesus would "destroy," *luo*, the "works," meaning they would be rendered powerless, dissolved, or loosed. He'll abolish the "works" and reduce to inactivity the one behind the works. That, friends, is real salvation!

Notice that not only will the "works" be loosed, but the very authority of death, also. This has been Satan's hold on man since Eden. Continually, he stood before the throne of God, accusing God's children of their wrongs. Satan reminded God daily that His holy Law can't be bypassed. "The wage of sin is death!" he cried. "You're honest, you're just, and your Word can't be broken. Condemn them to hell, all of them! They're guilty! Destroy them! I demand that you obey Your Law!"

The accuser!

Thank God for the little word, "had." If Satan *had* the power and authority of death, he doesn't have it now! By the time the writer of Hebrews penned this statement, he had already lost it! What happened? If Satan had it, but doesn't have it now, who has it?

In Revelation 1:18, Jesus said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." There they are! Satan had the keys, but Jesus took them from him and He has them now! Exactly how He got them we'll discuss later. Since that day, man has been free!

## 5: WHY SHOULD GOD CARE ABOUT MAN?

Without a doubt, the most pitiful soul I've seen is the one whimpering, "Who am I? Why am I here? Why?" But he isn't to be wholly blamed. He is the inevitable harvest of the law of sowing and reaping. What is sown must be reaped, and that with increase.

Was man created, or did he just happen? How does he relate to the historical Jesus, and why should Jesus die for him as Christianity proclaims? Where am I going and why?

Unfortunately, man has mesmerized himself by his perpetual search for his beginnings and the "why" of his existence. "Nothing is absolute." That is the sum of his education, and the only thing he knows for sure is that he operates within fixed laws that govern his being, his life and death, without yielding. Nature's clock is so finely tuned that he can positively depend on it. Naturally, everything points to a Master Designer, but his self-hypnotism rejects such a simple answer. Man says, "If a Creator made me then I am subject to His desires, and that I don't want"; therefore, he incessantly searches outside the realm of true knowledge, confining himself to the finite framework of his personal existence.

Science provides no final or proven answers, so each generation seeks to develop a new hypothesis. What was perfectly acceptable in one century is repudiated by the succeeding century. The only aspect they generally agree on is the "big boom theory!" Nothing blew up accidentally and without directed purpose, and somehow when the nothingness settled, something is here; contrary to the PROVEN law that states: "Nothing produces nothing!" Like most philosophies, it has no meaningful answers, and the educated guessers disagree among their guesses.

Clark of Cambridge, an avowed atheist said, "There is no secret and no plan in history to be discovered," while Andre Maurios, the French biographer wrote: "The universe is indifferent. Why are we on this puny mud heap spinning in infinite space? I have not the slightest idea and I am quite convinced that no one has."

When we approach the hallowed halls of organized religion, the Existentialist purr, "All that matters is the present pressing moment. The future has no validity." Consequently, we have a new generation of "enlightened" people

steeped in such license, futility, and despair, who gave birth to the violent revolution of rape and death. Truth?? *No, it's really the philosophy of rebellion!*

On the other hand, there are those true scientists, scholars, and Bible-believing theologians who ponder the vastness, the exactness, the perfectness, and the mysteries of the universe and man; and the more they search, the more God-conscious they become. Skepticism was born when man was unable to find a satisfactory reason for his existence within himself; therefore, atheism and materialism were born. Man, however, can't find God, nor the purpose of his existence, while limited to the finite areas of sense knowledge—the knowledge that comes from a minor slice of life gathered from the five senses. True knowledge, revelation truth, comes through God's Word, His revelation to man.

Man's inability to experimentally know God through his mental facilities is due to the fact that God is Spirit. Something happened to man in the beginning that alienated him from his loving Creator, and his only contact with the creation surrounding him is through his physical senses. Through his sense of seeing, tasting, touching, smelling, and feeling, he'll never find God, much less the reason for his existence. That's why Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:11, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" Even so, the things of God no one knows, save the Spirit of God. In other words, man is limited in knowing God, unless something penetrates that veil of flesh.

But have you noticed, that through the medium of words, I'm able to paint a portrait that communicates my innermost thoughts and feelings to you?

In like manner, God has purposed that His thoughts and desires be revealed to man through His words, which man can then handle, touch, taste, and see (1 John 1:3). And so "We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given us of God. Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit . . ." (1 Cor. 2:12-13 NAS). The Bible is that revelation to man, anointed and illuminated by His Spirit. It does not contain His Word; it IS His Word. Because of this, we turn to His revelation to understand His purpose in creating man.

# **THE REAL REASON FOR MAN'S CREATION**

When we come to the first chapters of Genesis, which means beginnings, there is a real desire to spend more time than necessary because so many basic teachings take their root here and are chronologically unfolded throughout the rest of Scripture. These foundational doctrines are indispensable, if the believer is to grow in grace and truth. Little wonder then, why Satan has waged such a ridiculing war against them that they are either rejected or relegated to ancient mythology. But when they are understood and accepted, all the rest of the romance of Redemption falls into place.

Within these first three chapters of Genesis, all of the great doctrines of the Bible can be found in embryo. Herein is the introduction for all that follows. Miss them and all that remains will be faulty and weak. Herein, we'll find the reason for man's existence, his relationship to God, and the exalted position granted man. We'll also find the truth about man's present fallen and devastated condition, and the devices of Satan, the accuser.

Here, we'll observe man as he begins his utterly hopeless attempt to appear acceptable to a holy God by covering his moral shame and treason with a cloak of goodness; and here we'll see the effects of sin as man fearfully flees from God's presence. Here, we'll behold God's spurning attitude toward those self-works of righteousness and His benevolent provisions for man's eventual restoration to the position he once held. Here begins the prophetic stream of God's integrity and Word that shapes all Scripture and history.

Little wonder the unbeliever hates these truths. Little wonder that much of organized religion resists them. Little wonder that man, worshipping at the shrine of his own intelligence, refuses to acknowledge his condition while he plays the game of life at the "tree of knowledge of good and evil."



# WHY WAS MAN CREATED?

Many centuries ago, the psalmist raised this probing question: “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Ps. 8:4).

Our earth, and the man on it, is so insignificant in relationship to the vastness of the ever-expanding universe, that a particular study of it seems out of proportion, if it were not for the fact that only this “mud ball spinning through infinity” is known to be inhabited by rational life.

Genesis 1:14-19 reveals that the earth, God’s primary objective, is the reason for the “heavens” and the stellar bodies that follow a definite, orbit through unlimited space. Every movement of our planetary system effects earth with its fragil cargo of humans.

Like a magnificent timepiece, every gear, spring, etc., plays a vital function in the total design to keep accurate time. But man has yet to manufacture a clock with the precision of the universe. A star may disappear and not be seen again for hundreds of years, but it’ll reappear exactly on schedule without any variance, not a second too soon, or a second too late.

So we see that the universe exists for this tiny planet called earth and the earth is the reason for man.

“For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed it and made it, formed it to be inhabited” (Isa. 45:18). Everything that man would ever need was included in His creative acts. All the resources, the minerals and wealth, the moisture, food and plenty, all were for man’s benefit. And man is the only creature that enjoys it.

Without man, earth has no purpose!

If the earth is the reason behind the story of the universe, and man is the reason for the planet earth, then why was man created at all? “Man was created for the glory of God,” Anselm argued. Which may be true in part. His idea undoubtedly came from Revelation 4:11 where the Authorized Version reads, “and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” The Greek word for pleasure is *thelema*, which is more correctly “will,” or “desire than the idea of self-pleasure.

The PURPOSE BEHIND MAN’S CREATION WAS THE FATHER’S HEART OF LOVE FOR A FAMILY, through whom He could reveal and express Himself. Now we know why Paul wrote Romans 8:28, 30 (NAS): “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (What was that

purpose?) “For whom he foreknew, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren.”

In Ephesians, the Father-God concept is again expressed. “For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, *from whom* every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” The human father’s love, then, exists because from eternity God has had a Father’s heart. This is what separates Biblical Christianity from the religious philosophies of the world; the Father-heart of God and not just an arbitrary deity. Only Christianity can say, “God loves you!”

This yearning desire was planned before the actual creation took place.

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world . . . He predestinated us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will” (Eph. 1:4, 5 NAS). Before the foundations of this present *kosmos* were laid, His master plan was to produce a large family of sons and daughters, fashioned after the likeness of Jesus Christ, His Son. Can we deny that His desire was for children? He chose man as His sons and then created the universe to be their home.

Should you desire more Scripture to amplify this glorious truth, turn to Matthew 6:8, 25-32; 7:11; John 16:27; 17:23; and 1 Peter 5:7. Because sense knowledge and sense truth has replaced the revelation of God in our lives, Satan has successfully blinded our minds to the nature of our Father God. Few, if any, believers have any real knowledge of His true nature. Even children are taught to be cautious about displeasing the Santa Claus-type God. “If you’re good,” mother warns her children, “God will bless you, but, if you’re bad, look out! He’ll punish you! He loves you!” What do you expect a child to think?

Thank God, that all changes when a person is born again. The Spirit of God bears witness with his spirit that he’s a child of God; not perfect, God’s true sons aren’t perfect, only forgiven. He patiently watches over them, however, as they grow daily into a place of fellowship with Him. Lovingly, He cares for them while they develop, until that glad day arrives when He presents them to all creation with a hearty, “My kids!”

# WHAT IS MAN?

**“Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Gen. 1:26 NAS).**

And to this we add the psalmist David’s statement:

**“What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? and the son of man, that Thou doest care for him? Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than [God] angels” (Ps. 8:4-5 NAS).**

God’s declared intention is that He wanted man to be like Him. Having learned that His Father-heart of love motivated the creation, His desire for fellowship necessitated such an authoritative man. Fellowship is more than sitting in church, singing a few hymns, and listening to what is often called a sermon. It is both participation and sharing of yourself, a companionship and intimacy among equals. Therefore, in order for man to share God’s life and purposes, he must be in God’s realm. He must be as much like God as possible. Of course, he could never be God, being the creature created by the Creator. He could, however, be of the same image and likeness, a son and an heir. What God really wanted was a family affair: God and Son, Inc.

The word translated “angels” in Psalm 8:5 is unfortunate. The Hebrew word is *elohim* and is generally rendered as “God.” It’s a uni-plural noun, the “im” making the noun “el” plural. It could be translated “gods,” but due to the fact the Almighty is One God it refers to His plural manifestations. The Shemai of Israel in Deuteronomy 6:4 reads: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord (*adonai*) our God {*elohim*}, the Lord {*adonai*} is ONE! The usage of *elohim* is for the One, true God.

Frankly, if I didn’t understand the true nature and purpose for man, I’d be skeptical about translating *elohim* as “gods” and would probably use angels, too. It’s awesome when one sees just how far man has fallen, but thank God there is a way back and that’s what this study is about.

No one should be overly dogmatic about using either “angels” or “God” because of a balancing factor found in Hebrews 2:7, “Thou didst make him, for a little while, lower than the angels.” Without doubting for a moment that the Holy Spirit is both the inspirator and director of all Scripture, this New Testament passage was written under His guidance, even though the Hebrew correctly says “God.”

What probably happened is this. When the Septuagint, a translation of the

Hebrew text into common Greek was translated by seventy scholars (that's why it is called the LXX) some 200 years before the birth of Jesus, they failed to render Psalm 8:5 as *theos*, God, and used instead *angelous* or angels. This was the text quoted in Hebrews 2:7. Does it make any difference? Not really. In either quote, one fact surfaces and that is what we want.

# WONDERMAN!

“Behold the man!” A wonderman, a superman, a unique man. Not because he’s called a “living soul” (Genesis 2:7), since the same Hebrew word applies to fish, bird's, and land animals in Genesis 1:20, 21, 24 and 30, as “living creatures.” Both man and animals are living creatures or living souls. There is nothing unique about that.

Nor is man unique because he has the “breath of life.” In Genesis 7:22, it mentions “all flesh,” “all that was on dry land,” and “all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, died” and refers to both man and air-breathing animals. All perished in the deluge.

Man’s “breath of life” is different though, in that God personally breathed His life directly into him. It was intimate, coming directly from the mouth of (he Creator. No other air-breathing creature was so created.

Man is unique and separate from the animal kingdom in the way Eve was created. When the Lord brought forth the animals, both sexes were created at the same time. With man it was different. Adam remained alone for some unspecified time. When the need for a mate arose, God said, “It isn’t good for man to be alone.” Causing a deep sleep to overwhelm him, woman was made from his side (rib).

When Adam woke up, there was Eve. Joyful, he shouted, “This is it!” (*Living Bible*). “This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man” (Gen. 2:23).

Man’s relationship to woman makes him unique. While animals function by a natural mating instinct without choice, love, or emotion, man is moved by love and a strong moral responsibility. One man for one woman for one lifetime has always been God’s desire for man (Genesis 2:24). Marriage among humans emphasizes a uniqueness of mutual respect and responsibility to one another.

Man is unique in that he wasn’t patterned after any existing models, whether angels, seraphs, cherubs or any other creatures. God used Himself as a pattern. “Let us make man in Our image.” The late Donald Grey Barnhouse wrote, “It would be possible, theologically, to say that the eternal God, the invisible Spirit, foreknew the physical image in which He would send His Son Jesus Christ and then created Adam in that physical image.” For Christ is “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature” (Col. 1:15). Notice that in Genesis 1:26, God said “in Our image,” but in verse 27 we read “And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them.” The “our” in verse 26

is a plural pronoun, while “His” in verse 27 is singular. Whose image was man created in? Why didn’t God say in verse 27, God created man in their image, so that the verb numbers would agree in both verses? The answer is relatively simple when the Scriptures as a whole are consulted.

The ONLY image in the Godhead is the Son. “He is the exact representation of His nature” (NAS). Or, as the Authorized Version reads, “and the express image of His person,” or as the Greek text has it literally, “and the representation of the reality of Him.” Apparently, Adam was made in the image of the Word, the Logos. He didn’t precede Jesus, but Jesus preceded him exactly as He did Abraham, and He could say during the days of His Incarnation, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).

Man’s spirit, the real man, the inner-man, was created in the image of God. “God is spirit,” Jesus said in John 4:24. And it is with his spirit that man communicates with God. When man fell, he lost that spiritual nature—it is dead in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:5)—and cannot know or appreciate God. Through it, he was God-conscious.

Man became a living soul, with a will for the power of choice and the ability to choose his own course of actions. He was an emotional creature that could appreciate and feel. The actions of his inner-man found a channeled course of action through the emotions. He also had a highly-developed mind. According to Genesis 2:19-20, he easily named every creature that God had made. Such a knowledge demanded a great intellect. Such a mind could fellowship with his Creator who was omniscient. These three things, the intellect, will, and emotion made up man’s soul. Through it, he was self-conscious.

Finally, man’s physical condition was vastly different from what we know today. Sin was not yet inherent as it is today. He was a perfect human being with a perfect endless life. He was neither mortal or immortal; mortal meaning “death-doomed” and immortal meaning “unable to die.”

The only way imaginable to visualize what the original man was like is to take an admirable look at the Last Man. You can’t compare modern man with the first Adam. They, like him, are fallen. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

“The first man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit” (1 Cor. 15:45). “And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (1 Cor. 15:49).

If we see Jesus as a supernatural person, we immediately miss what we’re after. If we, as sinful men, look up from our abnormal position and see Him

being successful, sinless, authoritative and totally free from any satanic contamination, He certainly is supernatural. But, our viewing position isn't right! We're looking UP when we should be looking AT Him!

If we could see Jesus exactly as Adam would have seen Him before sin entered the world, we'd see the last Adam as an exact image of the first Adam. Christ, then, wasn't supernatural. In fact, He was the ONLY natural man who ever lived since Adam rebelled.

Everything that Jesus did during His earth walk, the first Adam could have done, had the occasion arisen. Whether raising the dead, feeding the hungry with greatly increased supplies, calming the storm, whatever, he could have done it. At that, it's difficult to understand, inasmuch as there wasn't sin and its dreaded products. What I'm saying is this: the first Adam was Master of his domain, even as Christ was.

Jesus was exactly what Adam would have been, had he not committed high treason against the Kingdom of God and lost his authority!

If we could have watched Adam in action, we would have seen a perfect image of God expressing His nature and character through a man. He was "crowned with glory and honor" (Ps. 8:5). Whenever the glory of God is mentioned in Scripture, it invariably speaks of His manifest presence revealed in such a way that the senses of man can grasp it. By having a nature just a little short of divine, man was a direct transcript of God.

**"Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet" (Ps. 8:6).**

Because man has read the Scriptures through his sense-ruled mind, he has missed the importance of the place man held in the mind of God. He was made to rule the works of God.

In Genesis 1:28, he was commanded to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and SUBDUE IT and . . ." rule over it! This newly-created object of the Father-heart of God was made to have dominion. He was to be the Lord's companion and under-ruler whose dominion included ALL the works of God's hands. By combining several passages, the entirety of such a domain can be seen.

Genesis 1:26, 27 says that he was given dominion over all of the earth and all that was in it. That takes care of the physical geography around him.

Psalms 8:6 states, "he was made ruler over the works of God's hands; all things were put under his feet." This extends beyond the physical and included ALL things.

Then Hebrews 2:6-8 (NAS), adds that he was appointed heir over “the works of thy hands; Thou hast put ALL things in subjection under his feet, for in subjecting ALL things to him, [Adam], He left *nothing that is not subject to him*. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.” Adam’s dominion reached out to the limits of the universe. Possibly it reached as far as Christ’s rule will when He assumes dominion over all “restored” creation.

The Hebrews passage is most enlightening:

2:5-8 is an accurate account of Adam’s dominion and authority.

2:8 reveals that man no longer exercises that authority.

2:9 asserts that the lost dominion of Adam has been conferred on Christ by virtue of His ransom sacrifice in behalf of man.

A powerful fact is put forth in Hebrews 1:3 that says Christ “upholds all things by the word of His power. ” If Jesus, the Last Adam, exercises the scope of His authority and rules His dominion through His Word, this was undoubtedly the same way Adam ruled ... by his Word. As long as he remained obedient to the Lord, whatever he said was in perfect agreement with THE WORD and had to work. It was as if God Himself was speaking. He was, but through Adam.

There isn’t any Scriptural evidence, that I am aware of, where God put any strings or conditions on His commission to Adam. He gave him such complete freedom in his dominion that he actually had the legal right to use it any way he wished, even to conferring it on another. God’s love had a perfect trust in him.

Two words, often overlooked, are worth observing. One, in Genesis 1:28, is “subdue”; the other, in Genesis 2:15, is “to guard.” Subdue is the Hebrew word, *kabash*, meaning “to tread down, conquer, or subjugate.” To guard is the Hebrew word *Shamar*, and means “to protect, hedge, or guard.”

Conquer what? A new earth before the entrance of sin, enemies known to man, wild animals?

The curse, which produced weeds, problems, and death, was yet future. What was there to subdue and tread down? And to guard what? From whom and why?

This new under-king’s responsibility was awesome. God could have created the whole human family intact and mature, but He didn’t do it. Instead, He gave the ability to reproduce Himself to Adam, who would be liable for the yet unborn children who would fulfill the heart-joy of the Father. All creative life is in God, yet He chose to share that ability with man. Though man is the instrument, when a child is born it becomes a creature of eternity with a beginning, but without an ending. Man had become the custodian of God’s life and joy.



I've detailed the creation as well as the worth of man for a definite reason, the understanding of your mind. To the average person on the street, man is little more than a cosmic accident. If he believes in God, He is portrayed as a fierce type of judge. It has been that way since sin entered the heart of man.

When our Lord Jesus taught His disciples to call God "Father," in an intimate, personal way, He brought the wrath of the organized religionists on Him. "Father," (*Abba*) means "Daddy" in a very endearing way. Can't you imagine the upset in most Sunday morning services if we began the Lord's prayer with "Daddy"! Can't you hear some stern unyielding person say, "Why, that's positively uncouth. How demeaning!" Well, He is *my* Daddy, my Father; Jesus said so and I know it!

Mankind sees a God so distant that he feels no nearness to Him, much less any type of love for Him. He is either a great Santa Claus or the Big Policeman in the sky, just waiting for you to make a mistake. Consequently, man's limited concept of creation, man, and his original purpose, limits his understanding of the new creation, wherein all things are made new.

## 6: HIGH TREASON IN THE HEAVENS

Man's dominion was delegated authority and his authority was delegated power. The English word, "dominion," comes from the Greek, *kurios*, which means Lord. In most instances, it is used exclusively of God Himself, so Adam's delegated authority was actually direct power and ability from the Lord. Man wasn't a puppet waiting for his Creator to jerk the strings, but a son made "just a shade lower than God," designed to rule from Him.

Man either HAS authority, or he is UNDER authority; there isn't any middle ground; he can't be neutral! Very few doubt that man's original dominion was real, at least for a time. What happened to cause him to fall into such a quagmire of degradation, pulling all his descendants with him? What on earth happened that finally locked all men into the chains of satanic slavery?

In following the development of man in the Book of Genesis, we come next to the third chapter. There we are introduced to another personage who turns out to be the avowed enemy of the Deity and of the newly-formed ruling man. Who is he and where did he come from? If God created the heavens and the earth in six days, and then said that it was good, where did this evil slip in?

While the Godhead formed man, another figure stood by silently, but intently interested. After all, Satan had been confined to the "darkened waters of the deep" for many eons. Was this a novel approach God was using to stem his rebellion when a third of the angels deserted and went with him?

Suddenly, God spoke! The utter silence of ages was broken. "Let there be light," He boomed, and everything changed. Even heaven knew something marvelous was taking place.

His piercing sight wasn't distracted for a moment as man was minutely formed. He would be something entirely different from anything else God had made before. Then, like many thunders, Satan heard the words, "Let us make man in Our image and let him have dominion over ALL the works of our hands."

The words jerked the passive onlooker to attention. "That! Have dominion?" he mused. "Over ALL the works of God's hands? That included me! Never! I wouldn't submit to God, and I won't submit to man! In fact, he'll have exactly what I want and I'll find a way to get it from him!"

He stood erect. Even though he had been in overt rebellion for eons, his former beauty was still visible; the sum of his wisdom and intelligence shining

through his lowered status. There weren't any horny growths protruding from his temples, nor was his skin red. Looking him over carefully, you wouldn't find a forked tail. In fact, he didn't have any tail, much less the cloven hoofs of a goat. And his duties didn't include poking with a pitch fork, while he kept hell's fires hot for the unlucky ones who landed there. Such idiotic aberrations would come millennia later when superstitious, uninformed religion substituted fantasy for fact.

## LUCIFER

He was the "star of the morning," the "daystar." Later, he would be called Satan, the accuser, his most common title. Jesus called him the "prince of this world," while Paul said that he was "the god of this world." In the beginning, however, he didn't hold any power over man. How long the original creation remained perfect, we don't know.

We do know, however, that there were other created beings who were arranged in ranks much like an army. There were

1. the anointed cherub, who was Lucifer
2. archangels, with only two named, Michael and Gabriel
3. cherubims
4. the seraphims
5. principalities
6. powers
7. thrones
8. dominions

God placed in charge of all of this a magnificent being to rule and govern in His name. He was given more power and beauty than any other creature, and God called him Lucifer, "Son of the morning." His position was so great that even after the fall, Michael, the archangel, "dared not bring a railing accusation against him, but said, The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 9).

Turn to Ezekiel 28 and we'll take a look at what happened between the time of the original creation and the fall of Lucifer. But before we look into this passage, I want to share two important things about Bible study.

First, the Bible always means what it says and says what it means; and God always says what He means. Therefore, it interprets itself. If you read something that you don't understand, just shelve it. It won't be long before another Scripture portion enlightens the first Scripture. Do this and you will never get into heresy or cultism.

Secondly, there is the **law of double reference**. In other words, many Bible

writers wrote within the context and environment of the people of their time, yet their writings have a prophetic element to them. For example: the Psalms are filled with the personal problems and victories of David, Asaph, and others, while unknown to them, they also prophesied of the coming of the Lord using detailed facts. The Lord can speak to me and at the same time lay down principles for others.

The principle of double reference is found in Ezekiel. Because this section is addressed to the “Prince of Tyre,” it is rejected as not having any reference to the origin of Lucifer. Further along in this same passage the tone changes . . . “take up a lamentation over the KING of Tyre . . .” (verse 12). Here is a definite double reference. History is silent about any KING OF TYRE, although there is the Prince spoken of in verse two. Apparently, this Prince styled himself as a KING, so in God’s judgment against him there is a double reference. While addressed directly to the Prince, it speaks at the same time to the controlling force behind him, Satan, himself.

But why? Because in verse two this prince is described as being so elated with himself that he said, “I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods.” If you are familiar with history, you are aware that there have been and still are many in positions of authority who imagine themselves as god, or above God, to which the Almighty says, “Yet you are but a man and not God, although you make your heart like the heart of God” (vs. 2, 6).

So the law of double reference is important. Keep this in mind as we continue this study. When God speaks to Adam, he speaks to you, also. When He judges Adam, you have been judged, also. When He moves through the last Adam, He is moving through you, also.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT LUCIFER

1. He was created perfect. . . “the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty . . .” (Ezek. 28:12), holding full authority and dominion over both heaven and earth. He took his place as the highest, most beautiful, most powerful, and wisest of all of God’s creatures.

2. He was in Eden, the garden of God, but not the Eden mentioned in Genesis. That garden was filled with plant and animal life, while Ezekiel’s Eden was one of mineral beauty. Again, God is impressing on us the magnificence of this great ruling angel. Revelation 21:19, 20, is a near paralled passage illuminating this one. There is a description of the New Jerusalem, the eternal dwelling place of the Lord of glory, whose foundations are the same precious jewels. It is from this city that Jesus and His saints will rule the earth together. Could it be that the jeweled city over which Lucifer ruled will be replaced by the jeweled city of the future?

3. “The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared for thee in the day that thou wast created” (verse 13). There are two important facts here. First, he was *created*, which put an end to the argument about the eternal duality of good and evil. Both Satan and evil had definite beginnings, and they can and will have definite endings. Secondly, he was a fully exalted authority who never knew a lesser moment. He was above all others in power, wisdom, and beauty. Only when he looked at God did he see another with more than he possessed. Verse 14 shows that he was placed there by God.

He was blameless in his ways, even though he shared such glory with God Himself." Apparently, there wasn’t any outward evidence that shows him secretly, or openly, opposing the will of God. The universe was absent of sin, so there wasn’t any example to follow.

Lucifer was created in such a way that great sounds came through him. Tambourines and flutes echoed from his voice in absolute harmony. Man’s voice box, mouth, and breath can do one of two things. Bless the Lord with continuous praise or curse both man and God. If such an organ makes beautiful musical sounds, singing and communicating, what must Lucifer’s have sounded like when his very breath was blown through flutes and tabrets? *He was a creature of praise.*

4. He was the anointed cherub and one of a kind (verse 14). He was the protecting cherub with spread-out wings, covering the throne and presence of the Lord. As praise, he brought the praise of the angelic creation and offered it to the

Lord God. It appears that he received the worship of the entire universe beneath him and offered it to the Creator above him (verse 14). The mountain of God is the place of his presence in visible glory (Psalm 22:3), where God's high priest stood before Him to minister.

In the positive side, we see that he stood between God and all creation. His authority was delegated from God, and God worked through him. Here, in Jehovah's presence, he ruled, receiving his commands directly from God and transmitting them to the rest of creation. As long as his will was God's will, there was perfect harmony, life and beauty. Yet, when the devil is first mentioned in Scripture, Genesis 3:1, he is already hateful, a liar and deceiver, a malignant being, and totally in opposition to God.

## 7: THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

Continuing our study in Ezekiel 28, the next verse gives us an insight into the beginning of evil. “You were perfect [blameless] in your ways from the day you were created, UNTIL unrighteousness was found in you” (v. 15). What this iniquity was is revealed in detail in Isaiah Fourteen, but before we turn there, please note verse 17. “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.”

What we see here is that iniquity is the result of not being able to handle the “glory of God.” Deep in his heart something exploded called pride. Intoxicated with the magnificence of his beauty and power, and inebriated by the authority and position he enjoyed, he imagined himself as being equal with Deity. Here is the beginning of sin, initiated in the heart of Lucifer, and the only verse that specifically states its origin.

Turning to Isaiah 14:13-14, we consider his intended claims. As soon as he initiated a will that was contrary to God’s, he set up a plan of attack.

1. “I will ascend *to* heaven” (Isa. 14:13). He began his rebellion “on the earth” where he was ruling (Ezek. 28:13).

2. “I will exalt my throne *above* the star of God. Heaven is inhabited by a great multitude whose express purpose is to glorify God. He even desired to be above them (Revelation 19:1-3).

3. “I will sit *upon* the mount of the congregation, *in* the sides of the north.” Psalm 89:5-7 reveals there are assemblies in heaven. Satan desired to have the governmental position even over the angels who administered in heaven.

4. “I will ascend *above* the heights of the clouds,” speaking of the glory of God and His very throne in heaven.

5. “I will make myself *like* the Most High.” Have you ever wondered why Satan chose the title “most high” for his last arrogant challenge to God. Only when we see its usage as first indicated in Scripture is it clear. After Abram returned from the battle with the king, Melchizedek, king of Salem, who brought forth bread and wine, a covenant meal; and after blessing him said, “Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth . . .” (Gen. 14:18-19). God here is *El Elyon*, the “Most High God” and possessor of heaven and earth. This is what Lucifer aspired to be and is the key to his pride. He didn’t want to share God’s throne; he wanted God to completely step aside; so that he would be the possessor of heaven and earth, “like the Most High.”

## WHAT CAUSED THIS?

It was generated in Satan's own heart, the same way it can be generated in the heart of any being.

“By the multitude of your merchandise [the abundance of your trade (NAS)], you have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned” (Ezek. 28:16). It was “by” the multitude of his merchandise that he became rebellious. So what we're talking about is the root cause of sin.

To understand this passage, we must first lay aside the common usage of the word merchandise as being things bought and sold. It is something that passes through the hands. For example: a merchant is one who handles products by passing them through his hands from the wholesaler to the consumer.

As the covering cherub, much was entrusted into his hands. From God above, authority passed through his hands to the angelic armies below and, from them, he carried their worship and praise back to God. Heaven's merchandise passed through his hands.

Then an uproar of rebellious confusion hit heaven; pandemonium exploded on the scene. If he was so magnificent, so beautiful, so filled with power, so wise, “sealing up the sum” why couldn't he give orders under his own authority, instead of being so utterly dependent on God? Shouldn't some of his worthiness be acknowledged? The very moment he exercises that “will” by keeping some of the merchandise of praise for himself, sin was born.

Even though he was an angel, he wasn't created a zombie. He had a free will, volition and the power of choice. That one-third of the angels followed him in his rebellion reveals their ability to choose and make rational decisions (Revelation 12:4). Like man, he was made with emotions, will and intellect, through which he could plan obedience or rebellion, whichever was his desire.

He could have rejected that temptation, had he so desired. That not all of the angels followed him but chose freely to remain faithful to the Lord, shows their power to reject. When the idea of mutiny and treason came to Satan, he could have rejected the thought, but he chose rather to mull it over, until it conceived action.

What happened to him happens in our world continually. To selfishly want the glory for ourselves, rather than giving it to God, is the weakness and blight of Christianity. God delights in using all of us, but our attitude eliminates our use. Pride must be humbled and God often uses the very thing that caused us to be puffed up as His “contriting machine.”



Lucifer tugged on his bootstraps, thinking he could be more than he was, misused the authority delegated him and rose up against the dominion and government of God. Deceiving a third part of the angels to join him, together they threw themselves against the remaining hosts of heaven.

## 8: THE TROUBLEMAKER

" . . . Therefore I will cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I will destroy you . . . Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you" (Ezek. 28:16, 18 NAS).

After Lucifer's mutinous assault against the government of God, he was judged. Shut out, he was cast down to the primal earth.

"In the beginning God created . . . and it was good . . ." The newly- created earth was a reflection of the perfections of its Maker, and must have been exceedingly beautiful to behold. Certainly, it was vastly different on that morning of creation than what is described in Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was *without form and void.*"

Scholars tell us that the word "was" in Genesis 1:2 should be translated "became," and that between these first two verses some terrible catastrophe took place. Many modern translations read "without form and void." It was, as the French put it, topsy-turvy; it was *tohubohu*. It was waste, desolate, empty, wrecked, ruined and void. That some catastrophe did occur is evident from Isaiah 45:18, and it seems more than likely it was connected with Lucifer's apostasy.

The fact that the rest of Genesis 1 refers to the *restoration* from those ruins amplifies this thought.

When Lucifer fell, darkness covered the face of the deep as God withdrew His glory. Meanwhile, Lucifer, the morning star, became Satan, the accuser, as he brooded over the chaotic mess he made. Heaven watched and wondered what he'd do with the ruined planet, but there wasn't anything he could do. He was utterly powerless and without creative ability before the judgmental Word of the Almighty. He wanted to rule and now he could—over absolutely nothing. His downfall was inescapable; his judgment inevitable. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision" (Ps. 2:4).

Understanding the interval between verses one and two of Genesis Chapter One, illustrates the importance of the comparative system of Bible study. If one passage isn't understandable, look for the answer in another verse. In Isaiah 45:18 we read: "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited."

The earth was *not* created waste, void, or *ruin (tohu)*, but to be inhabited. *Tohu* is the same word used in Genesis 1:2 that says the earth *became* a waste and empty. If the prophet Isaiah, whose prophecies have proved themselves inspired by fulfillment, said the earth was *not* a waste place, why then does Genesis 1:2 say it was?

The interval and judgment is the only answer!

When Lucifer walked out of God's eternal purpose for him, he floundered into a set of moral and spiritual laws flowing from Jehovah's nature that can't change and are instantly and irrevocably operated. He was in a heap of trouble! Cast down to the earth, chaos was the only result. He was judged to wander aimlessly throughout the desolate earth, until God's yet-to-be- prophecy of the bruising of his head be fulfilled, and he then be confined to the federal prison house forever, the Lake of Fire. As stated previously, at that moment he underwent a name and character change. He was then Satan, the accuser of the brethren. A fire burned within him that consumed him relentlessly, and gave him no rest. At one time, he was the sum of everything beautiful; but suddenly he became the author of everything evil. Only by comparing his nature with Christ, as expressed in the Biblical titles given him, can we see even vaguely the hideous creature he made himself.

SATAN IS:	JESUS IS:
The accuser	Excuser
Adversary	Advocate
Belial	Glory of God
God of this world	Desire of the nations
Murderer from beginning	Giver of life
Hate	Love
Ruler of darkness	Light of the world
Tempter	Deliverer from temptations
Destroyer	Restorer
Liar and father of lies	Truth
Unclean spirit	Spirit of Holiness
Created angel	Only begotten Son of God
Seed of serpent	Seed of woman
Author of sin, sicknesses, death	Author of eternal salvation, health, life
Sickness	Health
Condemner	Forgiver
Nothing	First, last and all between

This is the character of the troublemaker who waited in Eden while God made man. When Scripture first mentions him, he is already a hateful, vicious creature. Take a moment and study the above comparisons. Do you notice something about them? They are a study in opposites. Lucifer's nature was reversed and he

became “the other side of the coin,” as it were. What was once a blessing became a curse. There are two sides to Jehovah’s nature. One side, through obedience, is a blessing; the other, through disobedience, is a curse.

When God blessed Abraham’s descendents in Deuteronomy 28, we see this principle illustrated. “Obey Me and be blessed in every area of your life with particular blessings. Disobey Me,” He continued, “and the same blessings will become cursings. The choice is yours!”

So it was with Lucifer. Once possessing life, wisdom, beauty, while in the presence of the Eternal, the moment he walked away from the ONLY source of life available, he became the opposite, the negative, eternal death.

The moment an unbeliever is “born again” into the nature of God, which is life, he receives “eternal life.” That regeneration turns him heavenward and his whole nature changes. The “works of the flesh” becomes the “fruit of the Spirit.” And in that moment Satan’s nature in him is “undone.” He loses control of that person when Christ becomes his willing Lord.

To protect himself against such an awakening in the hearts of men, this “horrible creature” covers his devices. He causes men to either deny his existence completely, or becomes so overly obsessed with him that they are finally mesmerized. What he fears most is for believer’s to learn that Satan is totally powerless when they are “in Christ.”

In that moment, Satan ceases being “the troublemaker!”

## 9: PROBLEMS IN PARADISE

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field, which the Lord had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed has God said, You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” (Gen. 3:1 NAS).*

The fallen displaced Lucifer was in Eden observing God as He made man. He watched and pondered deeply as the Creator formed man from a small ball of dust, but the words he heard are what excited him:

**“Let him have dominion, authority, over all the works of Our hands. Because he is created in Our image and Our likeness, man is part of us. He has Our nature, Our disposition, Our desire for righteousness; so let’s make him a joint-heir with Us and let him rule for Us!” (Paraphrased)**

For so long this had been Lucifer’s dream; to be like God, demanding respect and worship (worship, meaning worth-ship), and a kingdom wherein everything submits to him, where he makes the decision and gives the orders. But this could never be!

Hebrews 1:14 states that *all* angels are ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation. Although Satan had been the chief of all angels, he was still a spirit creature brought forth from nothing to render service to the Creator, and eventually, to minister to His children. Angels were not created with any thought of them ever ruling with God. “For He did not subject to angels the world to come ...” (Heb. 2:5 NAS). That position was reserved for the Son and His Body.

Failing in his first attempt to thwart God, Satan now saw a new and perhaps successful way to gain control and get back at God for punishing him.

He noticed that God placed no requirements on the dominion given this new frail-looking human. Knowing he was in God’s image, Satan knew the human was a little lower than Elohim. The ONLY restriction was on one of the trees in the garden, a requirement as thin as a slender cobweb; a restraint designed only to hold him in check, keeping him totally dependent on God.

The human was commanded not to eat of the “tree of knowledge of good and evil.” In his wicked mind, Satan formulated a plan.

“I’ll have a twofold objective,” he pondered. “If there’s some way I can persuade him to eat of that tree, he would release that authority to me, and being a legal transaction, bound by God’s absolute honesty, I can pick it up.

Once I break his dependence on God and get him to act on his own, he’d be

doing the same thing I did and he'll be joined to me.

"After all," he continued to muse, "I, too, had such authority and I lost it when I acted independently of God and developed my own will. One thing is certain, this man is created in His image, so God can't reclaim it without another exactly like him challenging me, and he's one of a kind! this is my lucky day."

As the first pair cultivated their garden, they moved freely among the animals (Genesis 2:19,20). And one of those creatures was the most "subtle" of them all. The word in the original is better translated as "crafty," but not in the sense of modern usage. Apparently, it had a natural power of speech. When it spoke to Eve, as Adam stood listening, neither one was startled.

One problem with this account is that we are inclined to think of it in today's terms, which often ridicules truth and make believers sound like medieval ignoramuses. It is Satanic to be sure. Have you ever noticed how evangelical preachers in any media, especially those who believe the Bible is literal, are always shown in an unfavorable light? They're like some Elmer Gantry, or an immoral money-grabbing coot, riding the latest Mark V jackass!

In college classrooms, professors hurl their sarcastic barbs against any form of creationism and make the Biblical records look idiotic. "Can you imagine a belly-crawling snake talking to primitive man?" they sneer. A favorite joke, until recently, was Noah's ark.

"How could a boat like that carry the many animals and where are the signs of a universal flood?" The recent book and TV documentary, *In Search Of Noah's Ark*, put that to rest. The evidence is overwhelming. If that something or other on that mountain in western Turkey isn't the ark, then what is it? The remains of a flying saucer from the lost Continent of Atlantis?

That serpent did not crawl on his belly when it spoke to Eve. It hadn't been cursed yet. Please dismiss such a thought from your mind. This was before the entrance of sin and death and there wasn't any fear between animals and humans, yet. Killing had not yet begun! Neither self-survival or its resulting fear had smitten creation. That came after the flood (Genesis 9:2).

Without laboring the point, please notice the word "serpent." *Nacash* comes from two different roots, according to Strong. One means "to hiss, to whisper," and the other, "to shine, brassy, money." Rather an illustrative list of words, aren't they?

When it approached Eve, it was the "shining one," so think of it in terms of splendor, beauty, brightness, eye-catching, perhaps the most brilliant of all the animals on earth.

There's a possible link between this word, *nacash* and Lucifer. Isaiah saw angels surrounding Jehovah's throne who were so dazzling they defied explanation, so he called them "the burning ones." In Numbers 21:6, the "fiery serpents" who plagued the people during their rebellion is the same word. They were *seraph nacash*, the fiery serpents. Remembering that Lucifer means the "shining one" or "star of the morning." *Nacash* and Lucifer are synonyms. One is the "shining one" and the other is the "shining star." so the serpent that met Eve was a bright, shining, splendored upright creature with a voice that sang with the clearest musical tone.

## WHY EVE AND NOT ADAM?

After all, the authority Satan lusted for belonged to man and not woman. She came later as a separate creation, made from his side as a vital part of himself. She was his co-worker. It was man who had the dominion he (Satan) wanted.

The answer lies in the difference between the natures of man and woman and their reaction to the crisis before them. Any temptation to be valid must be legitimate. When the serpent said, “For God knows . . . you will be like God, knowing good and evil,” he knew it was true. After man ate of the tree, we find the Lord saying in Genesis 3:22 (NAS), “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” So after the fall, man was indeed like God, in knowing good and the wretchedness that comes as a result of sin. Man lacked any ability to choose good; his nature was continually evil.

Satan approached the weaker of the two first. At one time, I honestly thought that this took place while Adam was away fellowshiping with God. But Genesis 3:65 states that when Eve ate the fruit, she gave some to her husband WITH HER. He couldn’t be with her, if he was absent from her. He stood beside her, charmed by her. Satan studied the situation for some time and finally decided on the weaker vessel. Knowing the difference in their natures, he knew she would probably accept his allurements to her vanity before the man would. He realized that once she was conquered, Adam would follow.

Being in authority or ordered to “guard” the garden from all intruders, all he had to do was order the serpent from his presence, correct his wife for talking with strangers, and that would have been that. But he didn’t! He was charmed by his wife, and so men have ever been. He stood by her side, unassertive, listless and passive, while the whole insidious affair took place.

“New Thought,” “Universal Restoration,” whatever, they stress the “love of God” and minimize His judgments. Male dominated cults, however, are bold in their denunciation of those who disagree with them. Jehovah’s Witnesses has Armageddon’s judgment for disbelievers; Armstrong and his Radio Church of God will exterminate all those who reject him. Even the modernist, a Christ-rejecting person, vehemently ridicules Scripture as folklore. The brassiness in the mens’ cults is absent in those begun by women.

Further, Satan couldn’t appeal to any base nature in her, yet. She didn’t have one. The only possibility left was to point to the highest, most honorable aspect of her nature, and here he struck pay dirt. She honestly believed what was told



her, being deceived. Her husband could use this extra wisdom; they both could. She wanted only the best for her Adam. After all, she was created to stand alongside him, and be total part of him. Being deluded, she innocently thought her action would be good for them, and for their children.

Had she maintained integrity to the Word of God delivered to her by her husband, the tree of life would have given them eternal life, but she was deceived and lost the ball game. Had Adam transgressed first, Eve could have said, "I obeyed my husband, he's in charge," but it wasn't that way. She was deceived. Adam, however, knew better. He followed her with his eyes wide open, without any self-deception. He knew that God had warned him, "In that day you eat, in dying you'll die." But that wasn't much of a realistic threat. He didn't have anything to compare death with. What was death?

This is why the Word never places the blame for sin on woman. Regardless of the simple commercials showing Eve eating the "cranapple," or the cartoons of woman being seduced by a slimy snake, coiled around the trunk of an tippie tree, it isn't true. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12, 17-19).

# **SATAN'S DEVICES AND MODUS OPERANDI**

Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The Proverb warns, “guard your heart with all diligence; for out of it proceed all the issues of life.” It’s the inner man that controls the outer man with his speech and actions. Therefore, anything Satan said to man would be a living revelation of his inner self and degradation.

## **“HATH GOD SAID”?**

His approach is fully exposed in the temptation account. He knew that the only way he could get to them was by attacking the integrity of the Word and God’s goodness. Unless he immediately destroyed their confidence in God’s Word, nothing else would work. He had to get man to question God enough to disobey Him.

## THE WORD ATTACKED.

Satan used a religious approach that worked well then and still works today. Adam would have immediately rejected his advances had Satan just said plainly, “God is a liar!” That’s too obvious, but just a little subtle question about whether or not God really meant what He said would be enough. Just a teensy-weensy bit of doubt.

“You shall not eat from any tree of the garden.” Satan’s approach should be warning to us today because he hasn’t changed! He misquoted what God said. God didn’t say they couldn’t eat from ANY tree in the garden, only one! But Satan twisted that Word to say, “You shall not eat from *any* tree of the garden. ’ ’

Every pseudo religious cult in existence uses this approach. They either add to or take away from the Scripture. Most cults ADD to the Word, making it mean something else while heresies take away, voiding it. Either way, Satan is the prompter. All doubt and ignorance comes from Satan, never from God, Who is the source of true knowledge and enlightenment.

Satan can never gain a victory when the believer holds to and stays in the Word.

## **GOD'S GOODNESS ATTACKED.**

Next, he went after God's motives, "for God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God . . ."

He's still religious, still quoting the Word, but insinuating that it doesn't mean what it says. "Look for the hidden, deep truth, you shall be like God," he suggests. Eve should have been wise to him right then, but she wasn't. Apparently, a little question already existed in her mind.

She knew that God said they were created in His image and after His likeness. *How could she be like God when she already was?* Know what he's doing? Casting doubt in her ability to be what God says she is! Their human spirit was undeveloped. That is what Genesis 3:22 means, Satan twisted what God said and meant to meet his own purposes.

God operated by faith when He created Adam and Eve (Hebrews 1:3), and they were to operate by the same laws. Their faith was in the integrity of God's Word to them and His goodness for them. Unless she believed she was already what God said she was, she wasn't operating in faith but in sense knowledge.

"Remember, Eve," Satan continued, "you're in God's image, so what is wrong with such an idea? If you eat of this little tree, you'll be declaring your independence and taking your rightful place as being like God."

He appealed to her physical senses, always highly developed in women. She saw it was good for *food*, appealing to the desire-nature; and will make one *wise*, appealing to the intelligence. Her spirit, soul and body were affected. Thus, we learn a vital fact: that Satan works from without to within, while God works from within to without. Satan begins externally through the body senses and emotions of the soul, inward to the spirit.

Actually, Satan spoke out of the unfulfilled desires of his own heart. He had become so utterly obsessed with his illegitimate lust to displace God, he couldn't think of anything else. He implied to Eve that God didn't really mean what He said or what she thought He meant, nor were His motives pure. Satan insinuated that God was afraid man would really be like Him, leaving Eve thinking that God was holding something back from them. Perhaps they would be better off, if they freed themselves from this one single restraint.

May I warn you! Satan hasn't changed his approach one whit! He still implies that the Word isn't to be trusted and that God has it's true meaning under mystical symbols that you simply can't grasp. You simply can't trust His Word to do what it says it will do! Why does Satan continually do this?

Any person who acts on his own, immediately leaves the authority of the Word and comes directly under Satan's control.

**“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16).**

Every person alive is either being controlled by God Almighty through His Word or by Satan through disobedience to that Word. There isn't any middle ground. Either God or Satan is our Lord!

Having previously lost his own authority and position in the government of God by a single act of rebellion, Satan knew this new ruling creature could lose his the same way. If he could get Eve to act on her own, without her husband's influence or interference, Adam would abdicate his position. He was given the divine mandate to rule creation for the Creator, and not Eve, so if she acted independently of him, he would automatically forfeit his authority by default. Satan lost his dominion by acting outside God's will, but if he could get Adam to refuse to ACT AT ALL, it would amount to the same principle of rebellion. Whether it's the law of commission or omission, it all resists God. So, if Satan could prevent Adam from exercising his God-ordained authority, by letting Eve do what she thought best, by making her own decision, he would win.

This same hideous type of lawlessness is pointed out by the Master in Matthew 7:21-23. At the future judgment seat of Christ, there will be some who will attempt to justify their rejected works and lost rewards by crying, “Lord! Didn't I cast out devils in Your name? Didn't I heal the sick and work miracles in Your name? Didn't I prophesy and didn't they come to pass? What about these things?”

How does Jesus answer them?

“Yes, I can't deny that you did them, but . . . you didn't ask Me about them. You acted independently, laying your hands on anything that moved. You did your own thing! You took the authority and ministry that I entrusted you with and you used it as you pleased. I was your Lord, but you acted independently of Me. Sure, it worked, but I didn't specifically tell you what to do. DEPART FROM ME YOU WHO ARE LAWLESS; or you who act outside My Word.”

Can't you see it? While Satan sinned by doing *more* than God ordained him to do or be, Adam refused to do *what* God gave him to do. Which is the worse sin? In God's sight, they are co-equal.

## **10: TREASON IN EDEN!**

<sup>1</sup> *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband WITH HER, and he ate” (Gen. 3:6 NAS).*

What was the exact nature of Adam’s sin? If we knew really what took place and how far he fell from the mountaintop in God’s government, it might be possible to see whether or not he could ever regain those lofty heights. This problem has confronted theologians for ages.

## WHAT WAS THE FRUIT THEY ATE?

It's foolish to speculate, but people have toyed with that block, since who knows when. Was it the broken Law? Hardly, since the Law, at least as we know it since Moses, wasn't given, yet.

Was it sex? At least one major denomination taught for hundreds of years that it was, and that the original union of Adam and Eve was sin. This is utterly unacceptable in the knowledge of the fact that God commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. How were they to do that? Scripture states that the marriage bed is honorable and undefiled (Hebrews 13:4).

Many have said it was the "apple" with the tongue-in-cheek. Without it, many comedians would have to find new material. Even the commercials cash in on it with their advertising.

I read of one English writer who said it was the grape and Adam sinned when he made wine. That's quite preposterous, since there wasn't any spoilage yet, and no Biblical record of fermentation until after the flood.

The fruit was quite simply a tangible symbol placed in the midst of the garden by the Lord for a test of man's obedience, a sign of his dependence on Him. Sure it was a restraint, but not much of one, seeing they had free access to all of the rest of the garden and its fruit. It was more of a reminder that man needed God for the continuance of true life, and when that restraint is broken, death results. The exact nature of the fruit is secondary and purely scholastic speculation.

What then did the fruit symbolize? What kind of sin resulting from it precipitated the Incarnation, the emptying of the Godhead, and the untold suffering and agony of the Cross? If you'll review with me for just a few minutes it will become plain.

We've learned that man was invested with almost absolute authority; that he possessed wisdom that was capable of communicating with God; that his nature and development were so complete he was the companion of God, walking with Him without any sense of inferiority, fear or condemnation because of God's awesome Presence. He was a *bona fide* child of God, a true son with the future of God's family in his care. He was a God-kind of man.

Yet this "little god" stood passively by while his mate and next in command was tempted and deceived. *His sin was the sin of doing nothing when his authority was challenged.* He became the "pussy-cat" of all time. He was no missing-link, but the crown of creation, ruling for God. Satan couldn't force him to capitulate to his suggestions; the submission must be willing. It was open



warfare and eternal stakes were up for grabs. There were no ground rules in effect.

By not using his authority, he lost it! When Adam was challenged by Satan, he had no middle ground, nor could he cry helplessly for God to rescue them. Everything he needed was already his and at his disposal and command. He could have used it, but he didn't; he fumbled the ball! He refused to act on his ability and God's investment in him and he lost his responsibility. Because he failed to exercise his dominion over all God's works, including this serpent before him, he defaulted and deliberately allowed himself to come under Satan's domination.

The moment he yielded to his wife, who had already yielded to the tempter while he passively watched, he lost control! Like everything spiritual, you either use it or lose it! Adam lost it because he didn't use it!

Therefore, Adam committed the crime of HIGH TREASON! By allowing the enemy to challenge the government of God, which he represented on earth without doing a thing, he was guilty of treason, pure and simple. His act, according to 1 Timothy 2:14 was deliberate and calculated. Whether he actually thought he could be like God, the Scripture doesn't reveal, but we know he did submit and in that moment **CONFERRED HIS AUTHORITY AND DOMINION TO SATAN BY DEFAULT!**

I'm fully aware of the controversy about whether this transferring was actual, legal, or whether it ever happened. Just the other day I listened to a well-known teacher say emphatically, "When Adam transgressed, God reached down and took the dominion back. Satan doesn't have it!" He then quoted Hebrews 1:1 and said, "God spoke through prophets who had delegated authority."

I agree, Satan doesn't have it now, but until Calvary he did.

I agree, the prophets spoke only as God directed and this is delegated authority; nevertheless, all men are descendents of Adam, whether prophets or not. As in Adam all men die, so in Christ shall all men be made alive.

As we have borne the image of the first Adam, we must also bear the image of the Last Adam. Until the resurrection, no man had any choice but to recognize Satan was the "god of this world and his spirit operated freely in the children of disobedience." But, thank God, that has all changed now.

"But Trombley, why didn't God just reach down and stop Satan? Surely, He had enough superior might to strip him and the matter would have ended there! "

That is true. He would have solved one problem, but created a greater one. God acts altogether according to justice and divine Law. Not even He can break

His own rules and still be God.

Adam's grant of authority over the earth was a legal *bona fide* gift. As already slated, there were no qualifications with it and the full responsibility for the exercise of it was his. Therefore, God couldn't step in and repossess it for him. This would have violated His own government and the Law, which is based on Divine jurisprudence. He wouldn't take advantage of Satan; He recognized the legality of Adam's folly.

Jesus recognized Satan's rightful claim to Adam's authority. Immediately after His baptism, He was led by the Spirit to spend forty days fasting in the wilderness. Nearing the end of this ordeal, Satan appeared to Him with a tempting offer. "I'll give you all this authority, [over all the kingdoms of the world] and the glory of them; *for it has been delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it.* If you, therefore, will worship before me, it shall all be thine," Satan said, pointing to the vast kingdoms of the earth.

This challenge had to be deliverable, in order for it to be a legitimate temptation. If he lied to Jesus about the authority having been delivered to him, and Jesus didn't know it, then our Redeemer is in serious trouble.

One thing is certain; God would never have given such authority to His greatest enemy, knowing it would be used to tyrannize His captive children. Yet, Satan told Jesus it had been delivered to him. By whom? There was only one other person who had that much authority and that was Adam. And notice that Satan, like Adam, had the right to confer it on anyone he wished, which is exactly what Adam had already done.

So you see, God couldn't legally step in and repossess the lost dominion according to divine Law. It belonged to Satan now and would remain his until someone stronger than he came and legally took it from him.

## 11: WHERE ARE YOU ADAM?

*“Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself’ ” (Gen. 3:9, 10 NAS).*

We’ve learned that the nature of man’s sin was treason. Now, let’s take a look at the results of that single act of disloyalty.

Was it possible that Adam actually managed to hide himself from the presence of God, so that He had to go looking for Adam? Or, was He really saying, “Adam, where has your will brought you? Look what you’ve done! Where are you now, compared to where you were minutes ago?”

Where was he, now? How far did he fall from the pinnacle of authority with God? How far astray did he wander following the paths of his own will? Would he be able to regain the privileged position he had just forfeited? Was there anything he could do to rectify his problem? From that moment in time, many have tried and provided us with many religious ideals.

Evolutionary humanism pictures man as evolving in and on his way up. There is no God; therefore, there is no sin, much less any judgment except the situational ethics he creates for himself. Sacerdotalism agrees that man fell, but only a little way, but he can be restored again by the various sacraments and the use of a substitutionary sacrifice. Others believe that he fell a little, perhaps to a little shelf, and he can work his way back up again, if he would exercise his will to do good.

Adam proved the futility of these approaches when “the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings” (Gen. 3:7 NAS). Eve’s first try at a fig leaf mini-skirt in their attempt to dress up the flesh, so that they could appear acceptable and holy before an offended God, was a failure. Her “good works” gave birth to all sorts of personal holiness programs and religions built around them, while man refuses to admit his basic problem.

Others believe that man lost everything and fell totally, that he was born again into spiritual death and took on the nature of Satan. In this condition, he cannot know, please or understand God. “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are spiritually appraised” (1 Cor. 2:14 NAS). Consequently neither man nor Satan can do anything to rectify what was done.

The moment they transgressed, Satan’s reign of destruction began. The first

thing he did was to change the nature of the animals, causing fear and death among them. After blighting all plant life, he breathed his own hideous nature and disposition into man, polluting their minds, emotions and will, so that the treasure of God's heart was permanently marred, causing him to be God's enemy. What greater way could Satan strike back at God than to cause His cherished child to hate Him? Man now bears the image of his new ruler.

"He that committeth sin is of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

Even the stars were made unclean according to Job. God's crown of creation was turned into a cringing, crying, servile, lying, fearful, God-hating, demon-ruled human. Satan so completely subjugated him to his desires that within the first hour he turned liar, and the lie remains the badge of satanic dominion today.

Death is born. Adam had been warned that when he stepped outside the restriction "in dying he would die" [literal] (Gen. 2:17). Just how much fear this put in his heart, I don't know. To what could we compare death? Sin hadn't entered Adam's world yet, so death had not begun its reign. Still, the warning was there and I'm quite convinced that God made him aware of the seriousness of it.

There are three different kinds of death mentioned in Scripture and all of them begin in the Garden. *Physical death* is the separation of the inner man from the outer man; the separation of man's spirit from his body (James 2:26). God said he would die in the day he sinned, yet Adam lived for 930 years after he transgressed, so physical death isn't the warning mentioned here. It is true that physical death ultimately overtook him, since he was kept from the TREE OF LIFE by an angel.

Then there is *spiritual death*, which is separation from God because of sin. A person can be spiritually dead while still living physically, or he can be dead physically while still consciously alive in Hades in his inner man. "Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them" (Eph. 4:18). This is the death Adam died the moment he sinned. His spirit died; his God-consciousness died; he lost all spiritual contact with God.

Finally, there is a *second death*, which is *eternal* separation from God in the Lake of Fire because man chooses to remain separated from His Lord. There they will be isolated from the presence and nature of God forever, and never again will God be accessible to man.

# ADAM IS BORN AGAIN

God is spirit (John 4:24); man is a spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23); and Satan is a spirit (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, it is the spirit that is common among them. Although man was made in God's image, he was constantly dependent on God for his spiritual life. Neither his physical nor his spiritual life was self-existent. It was only after God breathed into him His personal spirit, that man became a living, functioning soul. If he didn't receive his spiritual life from God, he must receive it from some other source.

Jesus told us that "The Father has life in Himself," or the nature of God is life! Wherever God is, there is life! At the same time, Satan's nature is directly opposite of God's. His nature is death!

The moment Adam sinned, he died spiritually, but he didn't die physically for years. **Spiritual** death came first, finally manifesting itself through **physical** death. The moment spiritual death overtook him, he was mortal, subject to death, or death-doomed. All humanity sprang from Adam and was identified in his spiritual death. Death passed upon all men (Romans 5:12); through one man's disobedience, the many are made sinners (Romans 5:17-19); for all have sinned (Romans 3:23).

Spiritual death, the nature of Satan, like a hideous dictator, seized the control, sovereignty and dominion over creation (Romans 5:21).

Originally, when Satan stood before the throne of God in heaven, his nature was wisdom, beauty and righteousness. We've already learned how iniquity was found in him. At the moment of his rebellion, his nature changed.

His love became hatred; his joy became sorrow; his music became discord; his faith became doubt; his good became evil; his light went out and he became darkness. All that is good, holy, beautiful and peaceful flows from God. While all that is evil, or contrary to what God is, springs from Satan.

Just as Adam received his spiritual nature and life when he partook of God, so he received the spiritual nature of Satan, which is death, when he partook of him. Adam underwent a complete change, he was "born again unto spiritual death."

In Ephesians 2:1-5, we are told the *unregenerated* man "walks according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

Five things are said about these men.

1. *They compulsively follow this world's system.* The word "course" refers to the inherent evil that runs like a stream through the world, organized and

administered by Satan and man. Because their understanding is darkened, right is wrong and wrong is right. In such a condition, they frequently justify their evil by declaring it right.

2. *According to the will of Satan.* In other words, man has no choice in the matter; man does what Satan wills him to do.

Have you wondered why the sweetest child doesn't have to be taught how to be "naughty" or evil? That child may be raised in the finest controlled environment where the parents love and fear God, but left alone, it will act exactly like every other unregenerated human—horrible.

For example:

Suppose a mother finds her darling in the cookie jar, captured by the "chocolate cookie monster." He's had a good time. A few have managed to make his mouth and some have dribbled down his shirt. Just then, Mom rulers the kitchen and fairly jumps. After all, she just finished cleaning and dressing him, so she could go to an afternoon prayer meeting. In a few minutes, they both exit from the bathroom, clean and tidy once again.

"Now, honey," she suggests firmly, "don't you get into those cookies again. I've counted them and there are six cookies. If you get into them again, I'll punish you! Do you understand Mommy?"

"Yes," he whimpers.

Ten minutes later, she returns to find little Chuckie with a sheepish, guilty look on his face. Looking into the jar, Mom counts the cookies.

"Chuckie, there are only two cookies here. What happened to the other four?"

Grossing his little arms across his chest, he vainly tries to cover the telltale evidence on the front of his clean shirt. Looking up with innocent half-closed eyes, he coos, "Don't you know? I didn't take them, Mommy."

"Where are they then?" she questions. "They were there just a few minutes ago. And look at you; you're a mess!"

"A little man stole them!" he explains.

"Where is he, now?"

"Didn't you see him? He went through the window just before you came back. Mommy, he was funny looking. He had a big nose, with a big red wart on it. He took the cookies, not me, Mommy!"

We all smile, the parents almost proud that their 30-month-old child can have such a vivid imagination. What a politician he'll make someday.

No! It isn't just a stage he's going through. He's born a liar, a thief, a deceiver, who refuses to accept the blame for his own problems. How did an

innocent child get like that, so soon? He was born that way! He inherited it from Adam, who was born again into that devilish nature, when he sinned.

3. *He walks in the lusts of the flesh*, uncontrollably yielding to every whim and desire, whether right or wrong.

4. *In the lusts of the mind or spirit*. When the inner man is corrupt, everything the outer man does will be a revelation of that evil spirit.

5. *BY NATURE, the child of wrath*. BY NATURE ... by nature. It isn't something that's acquired; we're born that way.

And all of this slavery is under the direct dictatorship of the prince of the power of the air, Satan, because Adam sold out to him.

Where was Adam, now?

Let's note several other things that happened when Adam forfeited the kingdom.

- **True revelation knowledge was lost when man's senses became dominant.** Eve saw the fruit, felt it when she reached for it, smelled it before she ate it, heard the voice of the temptation and finally acted out her desires. We might well rename the "tree of knowledge of good and evil," as the "tree of the five physical senses." A slice of life, that which is learned through bodily senses.

Reason was birthed with all its problems, such as unbelief, doubt and fears. It caused man to stop walking in the realm of the Spirit. His spirit, while in fellowship with the Father, dominated his life. Now that his union with God was broken, his ability which was God's ability, was severed. His word was disconnected from God's Word and lacked authority and power. He fell into the realm of human ability and reason; "but the mind of the flesh is enmity against God" (Rom. 8:6).

- **They became self-conscious as soon as their eyes were opened.** They became inverted with their minds turned inward toward self. Mentally, they knew that they were naked before, but it didn't matter. Now that is all that mattered. Here is the root of all mental problems.

Their whole personality changed. They now lived under constant condemnation. They lost the power to do good and gained the power to do evil. Instead of becoming "like God," they became unlike Him. Out of that self-consciousness rose their shame.

- **They were fearful and ran and hid from God.** He who had embraced such sweet tenderness felt only terror of the Lord. Darkness flooded his soul; sickness began working in his body; evil spirits tormented his heart.

- **He who was crowned lord of the earth became a coward and a liar.**

When confronted by his Lord about his act, he immediately shifted the blame on Eve. “That woman you gave me, she made me do it.” It isn’t bad enough that he refused to accept the moral responsibility for his actions, but he blames God. “If you hadn’t given me that woman, I wouldn’t have had the occasion to sin.” To this day, most men remain moral cowards, blaming anyone, except themselves.

Eve passed the buck onto the serpent. “The serpent deceived me and I ate.” The serpent didn’t answer, but he would probably have said, “The devil made me do it!”

- **Man was now alienated from God with the conscience darkened** (Ephesians 4:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4). Because of this, un-regenerated man inwardly hates God and doesn’t want anything to do with Him. He’s an outlaw, cast from the garden, without any legal approach to God. Yet, there isn’t any satisfaction in man’s restlessness and search for peace. Augustine expressed it when he said, “Oh, God, Thou hast formed us for Thyself; and our souls can know no rest until they rest in Thee.”



## 12: I SEARCHED FOR A MAN

In Adam we now see all men separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12). He has no life and no approach to God. He has no claims on God, having forfeited every privilege God gave him. Paul describes his position in the world as “without hope and without God.”

He has become a partaker of Satan’s nature, thinking, acting and feeling exactly as he does. He is his subject politically, a child of the devil, portrayed in Scripture as “by nature a child of wrath.” The *will* of God was resisted, the *Word* of God was rejected and the *way* of God was deserted.

When justice demanded that the penalty be paid in full, Adam couldn’t even pay the interest, his sin was absolutely unpardonable. And, regardless of His all-encompassing love, the Father couldn’t wink at the broken law and remain just. “Sloppy agape” hadn’t been invented, yet. The Law had to be fulfilled and it demanded man’s death.

At that moment, God undertook His own plan of attack and Redemption. Provision was made for just such an emergency when “the Lamb” was “foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Pet. 1:20). He faced the situation realistically, knowing His love would go to any sacrifice to renew man’s broken fellowship and restore His authority to him again. It wasn’t Adam who sought God—Adam fled in terror—but God sought Adam, and it remains such today. “There is none that seeks God” (Rom. 3:11).

It was a merciful Father who sought out and called to Abraham while he was still an idolator; it was He who sought the fleeing Jacob at Bethel while he ran from the stiff penalty of his wrongdoing; it was Deity who sought the fugitive Moses in Midian; it was Christ who searched out the fearful apostles after they forsook Jesus at His crucifixion; and it was He, as the Chief Shepherd, who came to seek and save “us” when we were lost.

Man’s heart, once fitted as the habitation of God, had become the devil’s palace, his throne room, using the entire man’s facilities as his own. From the heart of this new sinner, he would rule and work in the “children of disobedience.” Knowing that man with his new hellish nature would never seek Him, God took the initiative and came to him. Mercy and truth met together. Speaking to the serpent, Satan and the humans He said,

**“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel” (Gen. 3:15 NAS).**

Completely hidden from the understanding of Satan and man, God declared several promises from which all the major events of Scripture flow. Who but He, who knows the end from the beginning, could give such an accurate forecast of the history in one sentence?

First, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman.”* Before He banished the traitors and their yet unborn children from Eden, God gave them His personal guarantee and a joyful hope. Though they had foolishly surrendered their freedom to Satan, he announced that there would come Another Who would reclaim it.

This enmity between the woman and Satan is passed over by most teachers, yet it’s there because of its importance.

One brother referred this to the hatred between woman and Satan, and elaborated on the plight of women, before Christ came and in non-Christian nations today.

By woman sin came; by woman the Saviour would come.

By woman the curse came; by woman the One who would remove the curse would come.

by woman fellowship with God was lost; yet by woman would come the One to restore it.

That women are little more than child-bearing chattel in many nations isn’t doubted, but may I suggest that this prophecy speaks of a “greater woman?” It might well typify Israel.

She was the woman of Revelation Chapter Twelve through whom the promised seed came. Israel, as a nation, was chosen to preserve the Word of God, and through them the Messiah would come. As “God’s chosen people,” they’ve always been the object of Satan’s bitterest attacks. Weren’t the famines in Genesis designed to destroy the fathers of the chosen people? Wasn’t the order of Pharaoh to destroy all the male children Satan’s attack against this seed?

What of the Egyptian attack at the Red Sea, was it not to destroy that “seed?” The Canaanite attacks were designed for the same purpose. The perpetual distrust between the Gentiles and Jews, and the Antichrist’s bitter persecution of them during the Great Tribulation, are but his thrust against them.

And, in a greater sense, this woman undoubtedly speaks of the woman called the Church. The “seed” of this “woman” would bruise the serpent’s head and

that's the theme of this study. Authority over all Satan's works is now back in the hands of the believer! Now we know why Paul shouted, "And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom. 16:20).

Second, "*I will put enmity between your seed and her seed.* "There are two seeds referred to, which is often overlooked. Satan's seed and the woman's seed. The spirit of Christ and the spirit of Antichrist. Who will eventually exercise this authority over the earth? All prophecy commences from this point in time.

"*Thy seed*" is also a personal seed. Since Adam was filled with Satan's nature, his children would also be Satan's seed. Jesus revealed that nature when He called the Jews, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father" (John 8:44). "He was a murderer from the beginning, and there isn't any truth in him, and you're acting exactly like him," said Jesus. And the most subtle aspect of this devilish nature in unregenerated men is that he refused to be honest and admit it's there.

"*The seed of the woman . . .*" This is the first announcement of the supernatural conception and birth of Christ.

"*He shall bruise your head.* " "Head" is an Orientalism that always speaks of authority of headship. Man is the "head" of the woman, meaning he is her authority, since the fall (1 Corinthians 11:3-12). Christ is the "head" or authority of man and God; the Father, is Christ's "head." What God guaranteed Satan was that his newly-acquired "headship" or authority was time limited. How this must have unnerved him! He didn't know how, when or by whom, but he knew from that moment that God knew something he didn't, and that eventually, all he had gained would be lost.

In dealing with Satan, God knew that if his rule was to be dispossessed, a way would have to be found that wouldn't violate His own moral and legal law. God would have to honor Satan's right to dominate man, even though it was immoral.

He also knew the "seed" would have to be a member of Adam's race. It was man who lost it; therefore, man must regain it. No angel was qualified for two reasons: they weren't created in the image and likeness of God, and the lost rights were never his as an angel.

Who was able?

No man could be found due to his union with spiritual death. Were God to create another man, exactly like Adam, it would be unfair to Satan.

Who is able?

Religion has struggled with this dilemma trying to satisfy the problem with good works, right doctrines, religious practices and rituals, but to no avail. It

only breeds more religion and human revelations. The fact of this is seen in Adam's immediate attempt to cover his nakedness and self-awareness with animal skins. Thus was born the religious attempt to appease God's wrath by covering the flesh.

This was the cry of the angel in Revelation 5:2-3 (NAS), "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals? And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book or to look into it."

John wept greatly, because no one was capable of opening the book. This scroll was the TITLE DEED TO THE EARTH, and whoever held it continued the earth. This was that authority Adam had given away.

Suddenly, in the midst of the throne John saw a Lamb standing. It was the same one slain before the foundation of the world, the "seed of the woman."

"Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals." Why? Because . . . "Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation . . . and Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God" (Rev. 5:9-10).

No man, nor angel, nor any other created being was able to open the book. It looked hopeless except in the heart of the Father who knew what He would do and kept it hidden from the angels in heaven, Satan on the earth and man under his dominion. A Challenger would come and successfully challenge Satan's claims and cancel them legally.

# THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHALLENGER

1. He must be a real man representing all humanity. His standing before God must be free of fear, guilt, inferiority or condemnation. He must stand as Adam stood, in righteousness.

2. He must be able to identify, understand and sympathize with their temptation and problems. As man he must walk as man walked, "Pleasing the Father in all things." He must feel man's frustrations and the force of Satan's nature drawing them astray, yet he must not yield. He must walk as an obedient son, exercising his authority to guard the integrity of God.

3. He must not be subject to Satan in anything, yet he must experimentally identify with the "works of Satan" that blind and bind man, willingly entering into them that through his victory over them the bondage might be forever broken.

4. As a human, he can't be born by natural generation. He would be called the "seed of the woman." His conception must be such that Satan can lay no claim on him, spiritually or physically. His nature must be totally free from Adam's spiritual death.

5. He must, as man's Redeemer, be greater and stronger than Satan. Sin, sicknesses, disease, poverty, death, mortality and bondage must be broken. Out of this man must come a new creation, enabling man to be born again, this time from above while being loosed from his birth below; thereby releasing him from spiritual death.

There was only one way for these requirements to be satisfactorily met. Since only God is greater than Satan, and man was made "in the image and likeness of God," there must be a *union of God and man*. This promise of the "seed of the woman" was Jehovah's first promise of the Incarnation.

Woman doesn't have a seed; she has an ovum. Man has the seed. If Jesus had been born naturally, and then merely chose God, as some theologians would have us believe, He would have remained a natural child of Adam, even though choosing God. On the other hand, if He merely eradicated both spiritual death and the sin nature from man and indwelt him, making that one incarnate, He could have changed the future of the human race. To do so, however, would have been unjust both to Himself, the Law and to Satan. Satan could still point to the Law, which demanded eternal death and the authority would have remained with him. Someone greater than he would have to come and rightfully claim it.

That one would have to be an authentic member of the human family, and in addition, he would have to prove himself both morally and spiritually perfect lest Satan lay claim to him, also. Should this one sin just once, in the smallest way, he could condemn him under the same spiritual law of death as he did Adam.

The only solution was God's promise of the "seed." From woman would come the natural flesh of man, but the life would come from the source of the seed.

## THE PROBLEM SOLVED

With man it was hopeless. “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:24). When Eve gave birth to her first child she said hopefully, “I have gotten a man-child, even Jehovah” (Gen. 4:1). Apparently, she thought her child was *the* seed and Satan did, too. Later, Satan stimulated Cain with hatred and jealousy, causing him to murder his brother, Abel. He was after that seed. Not knowing who it was, he didn’t take any chances and destroyed this baby called “Jehovah.” He was a murderer from the beginning, Jesus said, and making Cain a murderer eliminated him as the seed.

Later, he heard the “seed” promise reconfirmed when God spoke to Abraham about his two sons. Again, he succeeded in putting the two men at each other’s throats, hoping to destroy the right one. Centuries later when Jesse came, that “seed” promise surfaced again, centering around David. If he wasn’t the seed then he could be the father of the seed. Again, his evil intent was to inspire Saul to kill David, always hoping to suppress the promise.

When Jesus came, Satan still didn’t know for sure whether or not this miraculously-conceived child was *the* seed. That’s why he ordered Herod to kill ALL the male children under two years of age. Surely this should get the one, if the one was here.

Finally, we see Jesus fasting in the wilderness, and still Satan is uncertain.

"If you're the Son of God," he asked Him, "prove yourself, so I can know!" Paul wrote, "Had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Cor. 2:8). The identity of that seed was the best-kept secret of all time, known only to the Father.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4). Since Jesus was a genuine member of the human family, yet conceived by the Holy Spirit and virgin-born, Satan had no prior claim on Him as part of Adam’s race. Therefore, Satan was not His lord. His flesh came from the woman fully qualifying Him for the legal right to reclaim Adam’s lost dominion.

## 13: BINDING THE STRONG MAN

Though it was still early in Jesus' ministry, the opposition was building rapidly. On one occasion after releasing a dumb man from the spirit that bound him, the multitudes marveled, but the religious leaders sneered. "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

Others tested Him demanding further signs, so Jesus said, "If Satan divides himself against himself how can his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub then Satan has split his authority. How can that be? But if I cast the spirits out by the power of God, then the kingdom has come unto you" (Luke 11:14-20).

Throughout His ministry, our Lord frequently spoke of people being released from Satan's kingdom. He knew that when a person submits to authority he becomes subject to that person. When Satan commands people and they obey, they literally become part of his kingdom. That's why Jesus came. To release them from that dark rule by inviting them to willingly submit to His Kingdom. He continued:

**"When a strong man fully armed guards his own homestead, his possessions are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied, and distributes his plunder. He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters" (Luke 11:14-23 NAS).**

These verses are pregnant with meaning of such importance that we're unable to plumb the depth in a few pages.

Let's note several facts in this passage.

1. The helpless, miserable condition of unconverted man whose heart is the devil's palace, and where he resides is where he rules and works "in the children of disobedience."
2. Satan and his whole government are the strong man whose goal is to keep captive humans subject to their desires. To do so, they allow a kind of peace to pervade the unconverted. Man has a good opinion of himself; he is secure and often happy; with little fear of the coming judgment. It is Satan's dissatisfied satisfaction and worked well until Christ came. Jesus brought to light life and immortality through His Gospel (2 Timothy 1:10). He unveiled the horrors of Gehenna-hell (Luke 16:19-31), and the true nature of man (John 8:41). He exposed Satan with his white-knuckle religion for who and what he really is and



man's deplorable condition before God.

3. He is fully armed.

4. He carefully guards his possessions, thus far undisturbed. People stood transfixed when Jesus expelled demons. No one had been able to do such wonders" before this time (Luke 4:36). Under the Old Covenant, blindness, deafness and dumbness were rarely, if ever healed. Though God had given Moses healing statutes and all Israel a healing covenant (Exodus 15:26), there seemed to be a lack in these three problem areas.

Jesus told the leper to present himself to the priest as Moses commanded. He did and returned healed, so they still practiced Moses' instructions (Luke 17:14). Why weren't these three diseases healed also? Undoubtedly because they are the direct intervention of demons. Invariably, when Jesus healed the blind, deaf or dumb, he cast the devils out of them. They weren't sick, but hound. And, before He came, there wasn't anyone qualified to challenge them or their strongholds. As proof that He was Israel's Messiah, he told the disciples of the Baptist to tell him, "The blind receive their sight . . . the deaf hear . . . the dead are raised" (Matt. 11:5), quoting a known Messianic prophecy from Isaiah 35:5. Satan's possessions had been undisturbed, but thank God the Disturber came.

Satan guarding his possessions is exactly what Adam was authorized to do in Genesis 2:15, but failed to carry out. Satan watched his kingdom carefully!

5. A stronger one suddenly overtakes Satan. It's an outright surprise attack, no sparing gesture, but a frontal offensive purposed to overpower him. When Jesus cast out devils, He really rendered powerless them and their power. As already stated, when the "seventy" returned from their success over demons, Jesus likened it to the "falling of Satan from heaven." In other words, his authority was challenged, overpowered, and he fell. By dispelling them their garrison is loosened and their rule is disannulled.

6. He is stripped of his armor of protection. The devil is a confident adversary and completely trusts his defense. He has faith in the willing obedience of unconverted mankind since Adam sold out to him. He relies on their nagging doubts about God's love and ability to make good His Word to them. We call it "unbelief" but he accepts it as trust and obedience to him.

7. Then the stronger Man divides the spoils after taking possession of them for Himself. Jesus didn't have to fight the devil for Himself; He did it for us. Everything Satan possesses, his endowments, prestige, power and authority were all taken from Adam, were converted to Christ's service. Then He distributed them to the new believer. Everything previously used for wickedness and evil

are now available for righteousness and authority. The benefits of that victory aren't Christ's (He didn't need them) but ours!

At that moment He imparts His nature to us exactly as Adam received Satan's nature when he sinned. We are converted, turned back to God, and inwardly desire to love and obey Him. Our terror turns to tranquillity; our fear emerges as faith; loathing becomes loving; joylessness is made joyful; and selfishness turns to sharing. He no longer seeks us; we now seek Him. A whole new man emerges, conformed to the image of Jesus.

Turn back to Chapter Eight and study again the opposing natures of the man, Jesus, and Satan and see the change when the strong man is put down. The old becomes entirely new. When Satan comes to the "new creature," he has no ground in him, no landing strip, no area to make a beachhead. The new nature violently opposes the devilish nature that once was. That's why there can't be any fellowship between light and darkness, between Christ and Belial (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

8. Satan is taken by surprise. How? The whole design of Christ's Gospel was to spoil the spoiler's house, to open "men's eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, *in order that* they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18 NAS).

Jesus' healings and miracles broke Satan's power and undid his works. Little wonder He said that if you weren't with Me--in My mission—you are against Me and scatter (Luke 11:23).

One problem is that we've had too much Cross preaching and not enough Ascension preaching. Mankind has been brought to the foot of the Cross and left there. Preachers have hammered away at the "sinner," but after he's converted, he's still a "poor ole sinner saved by grace." Just hang on good buddy, "till the rapture bus comes by!" Their general message is "how bad we are." Sure we *were*, but whining won't change anything. Only Christ can, and has.

We *were* sinners and we *were* saved by grace, but what happened the moment you made Christ Lord of your life? You were born again! You became, not a sinner saved by grace, but a saint, a son of God. The tenses whip us and that is exactly what the "strong man" wants. When you were regenerated you were made a saint, not a sinner!

That's why Romans 6 instructs us to reckon ourselves dead to sin, bury the miserable creature in the grace of water baptism, forgetting those things which are behind, press onward for the prize that is before us. Immortality, restored

authority, renewed fellowship with the Father and imputed righteousness with a new mind! Plus more.

How did Jesus attack Satan!

Prior to a general amnesty for all those who believe on Jesus, He must bind the strong man the very same way the strong man bound Adam. Satan convinced Adam to doubt God's Word and integrity, claiming a hidden meaning, a secret motive, that it just wouldn't work as stated. That same Word that Adam doubted must now work and force Satan to acknowledge its authority, causing his legal surrender.

Jesus ministered strictly under the authority of the Word. He began His ministry by saying He was anointed to preach, proclaim and teach the Word with authority (Luke 4:18, 32). The captives were released by the Word; the blind saw by the power of the Word; and He healed the sick with the Word, cast out devils with a Word, provided food for the multitudes with His Word, and raised the dead with His Word. He stilled the tempest, controlled nature and literally "ruled" by the authority of His Word. *He did nothing, except through the Word.* As He ministered the Word, He wrestled the sword of control from Satan's hand. The enemy had twisted God's Word, using it to defeat believers and persuaded them to question God. Therefore, Christ used the SAME Word, WITHOUT DOUBT OR HESITATION, to defeat Satan, proving God said what He meant and meant what He said.

When Adam rejected the Word, he rejected God inasmuch as God and His Word are indissoluble. To deny the Word is to deny God, whether the doubter is thoughtful theologian or a traitorous Adam. To believe God is to believe His Word. Now we understand why Satan wages such an intense war against the inerrancy of the Word.

Know this then, to love Christ is to obey His Word. "If you love me, keep my commandments," He said. To make Him Lord is to crown the Word, Lord. It's impossible to say, "I love God," without being irrevocably committed to His Word.

Don't dally with the Word, interpret it, theologize it, philosophize it or you'll destroy your faith in it.

Be a Word man as Jesus was, and you'll never lose!

Don't add tradition to the Word, much less make it null and void with endless church regulations and customs. If church tradition doesn't line up with the Word, throw it out.

Don't add to the Word as the cults do, or take away from it like many liberals.

Don't dispensationalize the Word, or compare it with other "good books."  
The Word isn't to be debated, but believed!  
Just eat of the tree of Life and live victoriously forever.

## 14: ENTERING THE STRONG MAN'S HOUSE

Using the Word as His only weapon, Jesus confronted Satan, entered into his very house and took away from him all the “spoils” on which he relied. Every “work” was successfully encountered and its authority over man paralyzed. There was only one way such a feat could take place. The Victor must experience *for man* all that he is helpless to withstand.

Satan came to Jesus as he came to Adam, out of a bitter hatred of God. “If I can somehow get this Jesus to entertain just one thought that is out of harmony with His Father, the unity between them will be broken and I will remain dictator of the universe,” he thought. If he could somehow find a single moral flaw in Jesus’ character then he would have Him, also.

As it turned out, Satan used everything at his disposal to induce Jesus to act on His own. The entire arsenal of “works” was thrown at Jesus.

This was the basis of their battle. Not physical contact as we understand the term. They weren’t squared off in a ring taking punches at one another. It wasn’t that kind of a test of strength that was being exercised. Although Jesus was “one with the Father,” He didn’t rely on that union to win the battle (Philippians 2:5-12). In order to qualify as the winner, He would have to use the same weapons Adam could have used; nothing more. Jesus didn’t come to fight the devil; He didn’t have to. When someone exercises a greater authority, he doesn’t fight; he only takes charge!

Jesus said the strong man “guards” his homestead, using every resource available. Every angel under his control was conscripted for the decisive battle. The fact that it had been “undisturbed” leads us to believe that until Jesus engaged him, no one had been able or qualified to dent his defenses. For thirty years, from Bethlehem to Calvary, the duel grew in ferocity. It was a winner-take-all situation and the destiny of the universe hinged on the outcome.

Just one measure of manifested weakness, just one moment of rebellion, just a fleeting second when Jesus would turn His face from the battle in weariness and all would be eternally lost. All His efforts and the Father’s Master Plan to repossess the “title deed to the earth” with its masses of enslaved humans would be cancelled, and Satan could walk away as the permanent god of this world.

Now we understand why the masses resisted Jesus’ ministry and why the

religious leaders withstood and misunderstood Him. Why the rabble-rousers were against Him and His brethren forsook Him in fear. Why the wilderness temptation was so horrible, and Gethsemane and Golgotha threatened Him.

He knew it was all part of Satan's plot to persuade Him to question His identity with His Father. Oh, realize the scope of it, Church! A single, momentary fleeting thought of "I can't do it!" would have caused the whole plan to fail.

But as the Living Word all Jesus had to do was expose Satan. When light comes, the darkness flees. When the strength of truth confronts a fabricated wall of lies, it crumbles. Likewise, the pure person of Jesus was such a contrast to Satan that His mere presence illuminated him for all the world to see and ask, "Is *this* the man who caused nations to tremble?" Let me illustrate by comparing their characters by their Biblical titles.

Jesus is the *Excuser*, exposing Satan as the *Accuser*.

The Lord is our *Advocate* while Satan proves to be our *Adversary*.

One, who is *hate*, is revealed by the other who is *love*.

Jesus called Satan the "*father of lies*," being exposed by Jesus who is *truth*.

One is *unclean* while the other is the *giver of life*.

One tempts while the other *delivers* from those temptations.

One *destroys*; the other *redeems*.

Satan is the *author of sin and death* while Jesus is the *author of eternal salvation*. Whenever Jesus appears on the scene that which is of Satan must go. Sickness flees when the Healer comes. Death loses its power in the presence of Life. Error cannot withstand Truth. The "seed of the serpent" is defeated by the "seed of the woman."

IDENTIFICATION. The reason behind Satan's attacking Jesus exactly as he attacked Adam is "identification." Man's redemption is legal, based on the law of identification, which is twofold. It includes man's identification with Adam, which has been covered in detail already, and his identification with Christ, which is the heart of the revelation of Redemption.

Remember, also, that there are two sides of Redemption and purely *legal* and the *experimental*. The legal is what God did *for* us in Christ and the experimental is what God does *in* us. Even the fall of man has two sides, the legal being what Satan did *to* us in Adam and the experimental is what he does *in* us as the "children of disobedience." Experimentally, we weren't in Eden with Adam; nevertheless, just "as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men" (Rom. 5:12 NAS). His death, judgment, bondages and spiritual death became ours.

Therefore, if the authority of Satan over the human family is due to their identification with Adam, it is then legally possible for the works of Satan to be destroyed by the identification of Christ with man.

**“Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Heb. 2:14 NAS).**

HE LEARNED OBEDIENCE. During our Lord’s early years of obscurity, He was in continual preparation, never once failing to maintain a perfect fellowship with God (Luke 2:52). “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered” (Heb. 5:8 NAS).

In learning obedience, no implication is intended that there was a streak of rebel in Him that needed conquering. Rather, Jesus declared, “I *delight* to do Thy will, O my God” (Ps. 40:8 NAS). And again, “My *meat* is to do the will of Him that sent Me” (John 4:34). The “obedience” spoken of here has been the theme of this whole study. It is the *subjection of the will to another, the acceptance of authority of another*.

Before His humiliation in the Incarnation, Jesus was the supreme authority of the universe. From His throne He issued commands and governed all creation, but He laid all that aside and took on the form of man and the place of a servant (Hebrews 2:14). He is a man, and in this new role He unreservedly submitted Himself to the authority of God.

In learning obedience, He experienced what yielding to another meant. He denied Himself, He renounced His will and He didn’t please Himself. Being made under the Law, He honored its precepts and learned the righteousness that was required of Him. He didn’t have to, but He did. Only by His experimentally obeying could He prove that the Law could be kept, thereby dismissing the penalty for breaking it.

Little wonder then, that the writer of Hebrews says, “Having been made perfect [mature, consummated], He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation” (Heb. 5:9 NAS).

THE WILDERNESS TEMPTATION. “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted” (Heb. 2:18). “For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but [He] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

Satan watched from the banks of the Jordan while the Baptist baptized Jesus

and no doubt heard the voice from heaven declare, “This is my beloved Son” (Matt. 3: 17). *So THIS man was the seed of the woman! He’s the one I’ll have to overcome.* At the same time, a strange phenomenon happened that was new to the world. Something as gentle as a dove settled on this man. Nothing like this had ever happened before and Satan must have wondered what it meant. “Well, I don’t have to worry,” he thought. “God’s prophets tried to stop me before, but they all failed. I’m still the god of the world!”

From there, he followed Jesus with his eyes as He disappeared into the wilderness. Some forty days later, he decided to act. With possibly millenniums of subtle craftiness behind him, he had learned to wait for the opportune moment. Jesus was weary from long days of fasting and his hungry body was exhausted. This is the time to try Him on for size.

“If you’re the son of God . . . ” he questioned, not once, but three times.

Of course, He was the Son of God, why challenge that? Because that’s his approach and it works. This was the way he got to Eve.

You’ll be like God,” he told Eve, knowing she already *was* like God, being made in His image and likeness. But he also knew that if we begin to doubt our true identity as revealed by God’s Word, then he can cause us to question all the Word. So when Satan met Jesus he lunged for His spiritual jugular vein.

Had Jesus yielded to the first temptation and prophesied to the rocks, turning them into bread, He would have succumbed to the “lust of the flesh” and surrendered His *prophetic* office. Had he obeyed Satan’s second temptation and jumped from the 244 ' pinnacle of the temple, two things would have happened. He would have complied with the “pride of life” and He would be a corpse, costing Him the *priestly* office. Lastly had He received the third temptation and recognized Satan with just a little worship, He would have obeyed the “lust of the eyes” and relinquished the *Kingly* anointing.

The third temptation is frequently questioned. Was this a legitimate temptation? Did Satan really have these kingdoms to give? The answer is quite simple. Any temptation to be genuine must be possible. If Satan couldn’t deliver what he promised, then it wasn’t a real temptation at all. If he lied to Jesus and He didn’t know it, how could He be the Incarnate Son? When Satan said, “it was delivered unto me—or handed over to me—and I give it to whomever I wish” (Luke 4:6), Jesus didn’t challenge him, knowing his legal basis for it.

Just a word of extreme importance on HOW Jesus overcame. He said, “IT IS WRITTEN!” No hassle, no arguing, just a simple declaration, “It is written. Therefore, I’m not interested in what you’re offering.” He overcame by using the



same Word that has always been available to man. Adam could have overcome the same way, but He didn't. Therefore, for Jesus to overcome these temptations he MUST exercise the authority of the Word. He did and successfully gained control of Satan in that area, so we can now rest on the promise, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13 NAS).

"He was tempted IN ALL THINGS as we are," and I'm thankful for that. There isn't a problem that anyone can undergo that Jesus hasn't already experienced. He hungered, suffered family rejection, was ridiculed by His religious brothers, was offended by His disciples, and hurt, time and time again. He spoke of His whole life as "being MY temptation" (Luke 22:28).

There are times when I've been under such intense pressure that all I could do was hold my open Bible toward Jesus and just point to the promise. When your mouth tastes like cotton and your insides are tied like knots, Jesus understands and cares. He's been there Himself. Therefore, He is able to succor and comfort you. Just knowing that I can use His Word of authority against any and all problems, makes Him the author and finisher of my faith.

HE WAS MADE POOR. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9 NAS).

Snuggled within this single verse is a significant revelation concerning Christ's identification and defeat of Satan on our behalf.

The context of this passage deals with physical substance. The Macedonian churches had given deeply from their liberal hearts for the needy and Paul was sending Titus to receive their contributions for the church of Jerusalem. He talks about money, food, clothing and the necessary things of life. I say this to clear away the haziness of some medieval teaching that Paul is speaking of Christ's "spiritual poverty," and that He wasn't concerned about prosperity.

"He became poor" is the Greek *aorist* and according to scholars implies the concentration of Christ's self-sacrifice in a single act. "By His poverty" means "pauperism" or "mendicancy" [the practice of begging].

When we remember that "poverty" and "want" is a prominent part of the curse of the broken Law, Christ *had* to remove it, also, if we are to be redeemed from the "curse of the law." In Galatians 3:13, Paul informs us that since "Christ redeemed us from the curse by becoming the curse for us," we are free.

Though Christ *was* rich, being equal with the Father, He was above and beyond the ability to experience want, hunger, cold and need. So He became poor, laying aside His wealth for our sakes. He didn't give a part, but the whole. He gave until He emptied Himself, exhausted all His riches and totally impoverished Himself, having nothing left, but the heritage of His people.

This Lord of hosts was born in an unsanitary roadside barn for travelers' animals, without privacy. He was as poor as man could be poor. He lived a poor life and died in poverty with borrowed clothes and placed in a borrowed tomb. His humiliation could go no lower, yet throughout His life He continued to give, making others rich.

When Jesus fed the hungry multitudes in the wilderness, He entered Satan's "house of poverty and want" and forcefully delivered those who were bound. Moved with compassion, He met man in every possible form of disease. Watch Him when He meets the widow of Nain whose only son and means of support is being buried. Jesus called the boy back to life to care for his mother.

Every action had a supreme purpose. In Matthew 14:33 is the account of Jesus walking on the sea. In a moment, He conquered the storm and whatever damage it could have done. Why still a storm? All too often nature wars against man causing untold poverty, famines, floods, earthquakes, etc., all ending in dire need. Jesus proved He was the Master of the laws of nature.

He was experimentally acquainted with poverty, in order that we might experience prosperity. What is that? It is the ability to draw from a heavenly source enough for my daily needs with just enough left over to share with someone else. Anything more than my needs is prosperity.

HE WAS MADE SICK WITH OUR SICKNESSES. Isaiah 53 is without a doubt the clearest revelation in Scripture picturing the "suffering servant."

No one doubts for a moment that it refers to Christ bearing our sins on the cross, but few realize that it also includes our sicknesses.

Before looking into this glorious message, it should be pointed out that the words "sorrow," and "grief," are words with dual meanings. *Makob*, "sorrow," is better rendered as "pains" (See Job 14:22; 33:19). *Choli*, "grief," can be translated as either grief or "disease" or "sickness." Please refer to any standard commentary for additional explanations.

"He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of [sorrow] pains [*makob*], and acquainted with [grief] sickness [*choli*]. Surely our sicknesses He Himself bore, and our pains He carried" (vs. 3, 4, NAS). Then in verse 10, "But the Lord was pleased to crush Him" *He made Him sick*.

The meaning is revolutionary! Christ was to bear away our pains and sicknesses by being made sick. Dr. Isaac Lesser, a noted Hebrew scholar, translated verse 10, “But the Lord was pleased to crush him through disease.”

This prophecy presents healing as an integral part of Christ’s substitutionary work. The word **borne** means to “bear away,” “to convey,” “to remove to a distant place.” It is a Levitical word applied to the scapegoat bearing away the sins of the people into the wilderness. Therefore, the truth is that He bore our sicknesses, removing them to a distant place.

The word “carried” in verse four is the same word used in verses 11 and 12 referring to the *substitutionary* bearing of sin. It means to “assume a heavy burden” and denotes *an actual act*. Therefore, we see that He has borne *both* our sins and our sicknesses. The secret to receiving salvation is knowing ones sins have been removed by Another. The secret to receiving healing is knowing our diseases have already been carried away by Another, so why should we keep either of them? This act of taking another’s sickness and sin upon themselves, not merely in fellowship, but in their stead, constitutes identification. Christ literally experienced our sicknesses and diseases upon the cross.

That these passages are speaking of physical sicknesses and not spiritual is dramatically interpreted for us in Matthew Eight. Jesus had just healed Peter’s mother-in-law and evening came, “they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ‘He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases’ ” (Matt. 8:17 NAS).

There isn’t any way these truths can be twisted, making them only spiritual, by saying that Jesus bore *only* our sins, not our sicknesses. If He did, as these Scriptures say He did, then healing is as much a part of Redemption as forgiveness of sin.

Someone has said that “Sin is in man’s spirit; sickness is in his body. The outward illness is but a manifestation of the sin in his spirit. Where there is no sin there can be no sicknesses.” Further proof that both sin and sicknesses are from the same source is made clear in Mark 2:9. Four friends had faith that Jesus could heal their paralytic friend. When they lowered him through the roof because the room was too full, Jesus said, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Such a bold statement almost caused the scribes to leave the building through the hole in the ceiling. “Who can forgive sins but God?” they asked.

“Which is easier” the Master replied. “To say to the paralytic, ‘your sins are

forgiven' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?' " As far as Jesus was concerned, both sin and sickness were healed on the same ground . . .Satan's defeat.

Please notice in the Matthew text what is called the " *'hina'* clause." *In order that* . . . which establishes the reason *why* Jesus healed. They were done **in order to** fulfill Isaiah 53:4.

One brother challenged this idea by saying "This would make Christ's life an atoning life. Christ bore our sicknesses, not on the cross, but while He was alive." Actually, He did both. Not only was He acquainted with sickness and its heartache as He ministered to the masses, but on the cross "He was made sick." That Matthew 8:17 fulfills Isaiah 53:8 *before* shouldn't disturb us anymore than His forgiving sins *before* the cross. We know "that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins," yet Jesus did forgive sins before He died. On the cross He was *made* sin, which we'll discuss shortly.

His healings before Calvary were the result of His exercising Word authority over Satan's works. As the "stronger man," He had to enter the "stronger man's house" and defeat him. When He met the sick, He healed them, thereby breaking the devil's dominion. That's why He told the "seventy" when they healed the sick that He saw Satan fall as lightning. The cross would secure a permanent defeat for all his works.

During Jesus' earth ministry, He was anointed with the power of the Spirit and went about "healing all that were oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38).

One day He healed a crippled woman, a daughter of Abraham, "whom Satan has bound all these years." He set her free instantly. That He healed some in order to establish His messiahship can't be denied, but His primary cause was to exercise authority over Satan.

Additional proof that both sin and sickness are rectified in Redemption can be seen in Deuteronomy 28. As the "curse of the law," sickness is listed as a major part. If Christ "delivered us from the curse of the law, having become the curse for us," sickness, like sin, was removed from us. Do we need anything plainer to tell us that Christ, Who was born under the Law, bore its curse and redeemed us from it? Is man delivered from "some" of the curse of the law or all of it? Is he delivered from "some" of Satan's works or all of them?

Scripture doesn't reveal the exact nature of what took place at Calvary, but this we do know, He Who was born pure, without sin or sickness, was *made* sick with our sicknesses (Isaiah 53:10). While hanging there, His bruised, broken body became the habitation of every foul disease that ever has, or ever will,

plague man. All we can do is accept it! At that moment, He became our curse, removing it far from us! Once again, Jesus successfully invaded Satan's house and spoiled his most cherished possession. How many sick people throughout the ages have blamed God for their sicknesses and cursed Him? But now, because of Jesus, Satan can't torment believers any longer, if they don't want to be. Love conquered, again!

HE WAS MADE SIN FOR US. "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21 NAS).

The great controversy, which began at Bethlehem, has intensified; Jesus' soul is so weighed down with demonic pressure, He is driven to Gethesemane. "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death," He cried to the Father. "If there is any other way, let this cup pass from Me, but it must be as You will." Blood oozes from His pores and drops to the ground. Never has any man suffered such agony, and there wasn't anything He could do to avoid it. He could have called a host of angels, but if He did He wouldn't have suffered as man.

The nature of that agony can't be experienced by fallen man. We've never known anything else, except the nature of a child of disobedience, but Deity faced substitution in the Garden. Until this moment, Jesus had been a perfect human being. His body was neither *mortal* or *immortal* because sin had never touched Him. True, He had been tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. He never yielded. Now He must be *made* sin; He must suffer the punishment for sin; and be separated from His Father.

Were it only physical suffering and death He faced, there wouldn't have been any agony. He was acquainted with physical suffering. What troubled His soul even unto death was the anguish of a perfect human who knew no sin, passively accepting the injustice of being made sin; of being so completely identified with sin, that not only would the fellowship with His Father be broken, but He would become the subject of His loathing.

As the Lord of host, He knew what was in men's hearts. He knew their utter lack of concern as they brought their blood sacrifices and promptly went their way forgetting what manner of men they really were. The realization of what He was to be made is the substance of that heart-rending ordeal. He must suffer the entire spectrum of evil pollution AS IF He had actually committed sin. He and sin would become synonymous AS IF He were actually guilty. He would be made the sum total of all man's sins as his substitute. Though He had never committed sin, nor was He guilty, yet He allowed Himself to be MADE sin in

order to break its power.

Our sense knowledge is severely limited, but this is certain. “The wage of sin is death,” and where there is no sin, there is no death. Before He could die, He must be made sin with our sin. When Adam fell, his nature changed into that of the dreadful creature, the Adversary. Now the innocent Lord must identify with that same hellish nature. His body would become mortal and subject to death. His soul would be made an offering for sin, the culminative sins of all mankind. The revulsion was almost more than He could bear.

“Nevertheless,” He said, “not as I will, but as You will.” From that moment, the issue was settled. The plan developed by the Father in Genesis 3:15 would be completed. He would enter Satan’s house and dispossess his possessions.

*NOTE: When our Lord finally cried, "It is finished" from the cross, it wasn't the end of His sacrifice, but the end of the Mosaic Law with its ordinances and sacrifices. He "blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us . . . nailing them to His cross . . . " (Col. 2:14).*

Since sin is a purely spiritual force, it must be dealt with at its source, the spirit. If Jesus paid the full penalty by yielding His physical body on the cross, then sin is only a physical act, hell is unnecessary and man would only have to die physically to pay for his sin. The Scriptures tell us, however, that it is “appointed unto men once to die but after this, the judgment. ” When man dies physically, that isn’t the end. He descends immediately into

Sheol/Hades/Hell. Therefore, Jesus didn’t complete His sacrifice until He entered hell as man’s representative taking with him the aggregate sin of the world. It wasn’t until after all the consequences of this culminative sin was paid that Satan was despoiled and Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead, carrying His blood through the eternal Spirit into the heavenlies.

## **HE DIED FOR EVERY MAN.**

**“He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death Me might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives” (Heb. 2:14, 15).**

**“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him” (Col. 2:15).**

Jesus is now suspended from a cross between heaven and hell, hanging there alone. Still, Satan refuses to relinquish Him and pushed Him even harder. From the first spurt of blood, where the huge spikes were pounded through the tender flesh, all hell lashed out against Him. “Jesus,” Satan whispered, “why don’t you take a sip of that drugged wine? It’ll help you bear the pain.” Jesus moistened His parched lips with it, but recognizing its stupefying effects, pushed it away (Matthew 27:34). He would face the coming pain without a drugged mind. His powers of reason would stay pure, unclouded and unimpaired to the end.

Around noon, some three hours into this shameful drama, a darkness that nearly equals hell slithered over the land. God reached down His hand of grace and gathered all the sins of man and placed them upon Jesus. In that moment, He became the sin center of the universe. Sensing the total absence of God He cried, “My God, why have You forsaken Me?” For three long lonely hours, He endured incomparable suffering, and never whimpered a sound. God left Him to bear the inexplicable pain alone. Since He was made sin, it was impossible to remain with Him.

The stark truth is, God had *not* forsaken His son. When He looked at what was happening, He didn’t even see His son. He was so totally identified with man, He became “an object of loathing to Him” (Ps. 88:8). Such separation, veiled in the mystery of substitution, means nothing to man. Individually, God saw me on that cross and punished my sin to the fullest in the person of His innocent Son.

Jesus was made sin! He could now die in man’s stead. Every wave of Jehovah’s wrath flooded Him. At last, he moaned, “It is finished!” All anyone saw was a man hanging limp, every bone disjointed, his swollen tongue hanging from the side of His mouth, and that feeble cry, “It is finished.” They didn’t know what was going on and unfortunately, too many believers today still don’t know what really happened.

Paul draws back the curtain of bewilderment and tells us that Jesus threw off

all the satanic forces. He wrapped a chain around their necks and paraded them across the universe for all to behold. The authority of God's Word and one man's obedience to it, cancelled all of Satan's claims on both earth and man. Rather than he leading Jesus, Jesus had been leading him—into the mystery of His cross.

Until the cry, "It is finished," Satan had a legal right to afflict, destroy and kill (John 10:10). As the legal owner of all of Adam's offsprings, he could do anything with them he chose to. But now, he is being led into the one colossal blunder that would cost him his kingdom authority. He had absolutely no legal claims on Jesus, but he killed him, anyway. This is the meaning of Hebrews 2:14, "That *through* His death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil."

According to legal jurisprudence, when a man murders he is subject to the death penalty. A convicted murderer forfeits his right to live; he destroys himself. Although Jesus called Satan a "murderer," he had never personally killed anyone. But in his desperation to force Jesus to act independently of the Father, he caused his death and became guilty of murdering an innocent man.

This single act of murder made Satan guilty of death and rendered himself powerless to enforce the authority he held. He sentenced himself to eternal death. Consequently, all his legal claims against men and the earth were cancelled and as a convicted murderer he has no legal right whatsoever. "Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels," Jesus said.



## 15: CHRISTUS VICTOR

What happened to Jesus during the three days and nights in the tomb? Did He go to Heaven? Or Paradise? Or where sinners go ... to hell?

Because that matchless Son of God was made sin, He went to hell to complete the payment. David was the first to let us glimpse this. In Psalm 16:10 he said, "For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol [hell]; neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to see the pit [corruption, undergo decay]." It was Peter who picked up this message again in Acts 2:27. Jesus' body was in a borrowed sepulchre, but His soul was in the lowest hell. No, He did not go to Paradise . . . yet!

Paradise was the "holding place" for the Old Testament saints waiting for the ransom price to be paid. Each of them held a promissory note, sealed with the atonement blood, that was their guarantee that as soon as the first Covenant was fulfilled they could cash it in. There were no unrepentant sinners there.

*Christ's work wasn't finished on the cross!* The wage of sin was more than physical death; it was eternal death. Therefore, His work wouldn't be finished until He rose from the dead and carried His blood into the heavenly Holy of Holies and Divine Justice accepted it. He was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised WHEN we, as Jews and Gentiles, were justified. Further, if Jesus didn't descend into hell, then we have no legal ground or assurance that we can escape its horrors. As long as Jesus remained identified with "sin," He remained under the grasping control of Satan and hell where all rebellious sinners are confined when they leave this life (Luke 16:19-31).

Can you see the necessity of it? He went there for you and me. As the last Adam, He undid all that the first Adam brought upon us and these issues had to be settled in order to vindicate God's name. Let's go to Psalm 88:1-6 and hear His agony: (Paraphrased)

"I am full of troubles, weighed down with evils. My soul has arrived at Sheol, the kingdom of death. I am become a man without God. You have put me into the lowest pit, in the dark places. I am wasted away."

The suffering is indescribable. Whatever hell is, and wherever it is, Jesus suffered vicariously for me. Only when justice is satisfied will, "He see the travail of his soul, and be satisfied (Isa. 53:11).

HE IS BORN AGAIN. "He was justified in spirit" (1 Tim. 3:16).

From the moment Jesus took on Himself the nature of sin, He was cut off

from God, separated, and alienated from Him. Before He could be restored to fellowship, He would have to be born again; the first-born out of spirit death; to be the federal head of a new creation. This is the meaning of Revelation 1:5, “Jesus Christ who is the first begotten from among the dead.”

Paul again lifts the veil of understanding and says, “And God raised Him up *again*, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power” (Acts 2:24 NAS). From the language, it’s apparent that all hell tried to hold Him with herculean effort, but couldn’t. Notice that Paul said, “God raised Him *again*,” which separated this account from His birth.

He was “begotten” *before* God raised Him from the dead. Just what took place in those dark hours, we aren’t sure; but we find Paul saying, “And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He *raised up Jesus*, as it is also written in the second Psalm, Thou art My son; *today I have begotten Thee*. And as for the fact that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to decay” (Acts 13:32-43 NAS). What else can we conclude, except that Paul stated that Christ’s resurrection was the fulfilling of Psalm 2:7, “This day I have begot- ton thee.”

God raised Jesus from the dead: He was begotten again. For additional proof of this concept read Romans 1:4, which says, “. . . declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead.” How was this accomplished? By the resurrection. Therefore, His resurrection *was* His new birth.

Armed with the authority Jesus reclaimed by His cross and man’s new birth by divesting Himself of Satanic powers, He confronted Satan.

“Give me the keys!”

“But you can’t have them . . . they’re legally mine,” Satan whined. “You’ve made the biggest mistake of your life. Why . . . I’ve been after you, since my victory in Eden. Oh, I heard that threat that someone would come along and take my authority from me and bruise my head, but no one succeeded. All along the line, I’ve made sure the ‘seed’ wouldn’t get to me!

“When I got Cain to kill his brother Abel, I honestly thought the line stopped,” he continued. “Whew . . . that was a scary one. When Eve called that baby boy “Jehovah” it sure sounded as if he could be the one. I couldn’t afford to take any chances, so I had him killed.

"And it was I who got Ishmael and Isaac at each other’s throats, and I was the one who motivated Saul to try killing David. If you’re the Branch, Jesus, I thought that if I got the root of Jesse, you wouldn’t survive, but Saul failed. Even

the Scribes and Pharisees tried to destroy and discredit You under my directions. Do you realize what you've done, Jesus? You actually became sin for that hateful bunch. Do you think for one moment they love You? They don't! Cause they're mine and they'll do whatever I want them to . . . and now, I've got You, too, right where I want you."

For three days and nights Jesus never opened His mouth to defend Himself. Justice must be satisfied, but on the third morning something happened! A strange sense of inner strength overwhelmed Him. He faced Satan with complete confidence. Seeing the keys of death and hell hanging from his girdle, Jesus said, "Give Me the keys."

There was a certain ring of authority that Satan had never heard before. He knew he was compelled to obey. He was powerless to resist it.

"No one has ever ordered me around like that before."

"Give Me the keys . . . now!"

"Yes . . . sir," he mumbled and handed them over.

Later, Jesus would reveal to John on Patmos, I am "the Living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and Hades" (Rev. 1:18 NAS).

Satan stood speechless as Jesus walked quickly to the gates of Paradise. Behind those ancient gates was a large crowd of faithful believers, held captive by Satan as long as he held the keys to death. They were expecting Jesus. Just a few days before His crucifixion, Jesus met with Moses and Elijah and they discussed His death, which would be accomplished at Jerusalem (Luke 9:31).

Jesus slipped the key of authority into the lock and opened it for the first time, since Adam fell. Beyond the heavy gates one could hear a stirring. Gradually, forms appeared in the presence of this light. Abraham was the first to see Him.

"We've been expecting You, Sir!"

"Abbie, who is that man," Sarah asked?

"Honey, do you remember the time back on the plain of Mamre when those three men visited us and one of them told us that you'd have a baby next year when you were 90? And do you recall laughing to yourself and He caught you, even though He couldn't see you?"

"And how am I supposed to forget that? I had the baby, didn't I?"

"Well . . . apologize . . . that's Him standing there."

Suddenly, Lot spoke up. "Uncle . . . remember me telling you about that angel Who called Himself Jehovah and called down fire from Jehovah out of heaven and destroyed the cities on the plains? I never did figure out how there was only

One, but yet there were Three. Anyway, that's the man."

Moses mumbled something as he slowly ambled around to the back of this visitor. "That's what I thought. I didn't recognize His face cause He'd only let me see His back parts, but Abbie, that's the man who carved the Ten Commandments with His fingernail on the two pieces of stone. I like the front part, too."

On and on they came, each recalling the event where they had met this Heavenly Person.

Joshua said, "This is the Captain of the Lord's host who led us into Canaan and sure victory."

Isaiah said, "I saw Him in a vision and His train of glory went from one end of heaven to the other."

"Why ... I saw Him as a wheel in the middle of a wheel," Ezekiel said.

Slowly, Jacob hobbled up with his lame leg. "I know Him, too, but I don't want to wrestle with You anymore, Lord. Abraham . . . this is the man who touched my leg and left me lame."

Suddenly, three balls of pure energy bounced up. "Hey . . . this is great. This is the man who was in the furnace with us and put three divine asbestos suits on us. We didn't burn and we didn't bow." "Well, don't forget me," Daniel said, "that is the man who put the muzzles on the lions before they made cat food out of me. Yep . . . that's the same one."

(It *was* the same Person, this same Jesus. Let the modernists, the infidels, the pseudo-intellectuals and cultists deny this Jesus, but without Him man is still the captive slave of sin and Satan.)

"Let's go," Jesus commanded them.

"Where?"

"Into the Father's Presence. I'm leading captivity captive. You're now acceptable to Him, so let's go!"

With a mighty shove the earth reeled and hell quaked. Out of the mysterious depths of death, darkness stepped aside and through the rent they ascended. Up and up they came until they stepped on solid earth once more. When some of them learned that they must stop over at Jerusalem while the Lord picked up His body, they asked wonderingly if they might see their city again. With His permission they staged quite a frightening show for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Just outside the city was a small cemetery. When Jesus died an earthquake opened several of the graves there, leaving the remains exposed. Now when Jesus was raised, their bodies also rose and they deliberately walked on the

streets of Jerusalem. What they said and did I don't know ... I can only wonder. Can't you see a group gathered? The fear on their faces can't be hidden.

"It's been three days," one of them muttered. "Do you think He'll really come alive, again?"

"Who knows?"

Another said, "But do you know the mess we're in if He does?"

An ancient-looking man approached them. His flesh looked refreshed but his clothes were definitely out of style. "What's going on?" he asked.

"Don't you know? Where on earth have you been? The government killed an imposter three days ago and He said He'd come back to life in three days, Today's that day. By the way, who are you?"

"I'm Abraham,"

"Better be careful, friend. That guy they killed got killed 'cause He said He was older than you."

"He was!"

"How do you know that?"

"I am Abraham and this Jesus was older than I. He was all that He said He was."

"How can you be Abraham . . . he's dead."

"That's right, friend. I was, but this Jesus just sprung us. We're on our way into the Father's presence, right now. Good to talk with you," and he disappeared.

Their stay was extremely short. They continued up and up through the clouds and heavenlies until they entered the "land of the living," and went directly to the everlasting doors.

*"Lift up your heads, O gates, that the King of glory may come in!"*

*"Who is the King of glory,"* came the challenge from the angels surrounding the celestial city.

*"The Lord, strong and mighty in battle,"* the captives replied. "We just watched Him soundly defeat the enemy of heaven alone. He is the King of glory, that is who He is. Now will you open those gates?"

Again the angels challenged them. *"Who is the King of glory?"*

"Hear this and hear it well," they shouted back. *"The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!"* He conquered and is now the Lord of both heaven and earth. He now holds the delegated authority Adam lost. The universe is back in control of the heavenlies. Single-handedly He vanquished sin and death. Jesus is the Lord of hosts.

The gates swung open, the ancient doors welcomed them and the Master of

the new creation entered into His glory which He shared with the Father before the world was. With an everlasting smile on His face, He presented the firstfruits of His victory to His Father.

"Sit down, My Son, right here by My right hand, and reign until Your last enemy has been made Your footstool." And with that Jesus took His rightful place beside His Majesty. In any realm of possible existence, whether in heaven, on earth or in hell, there isn't any possible rival. Jesus is Lord of all!

"Now that you've willingly, lovingly, destroyed the arch-enemy of both man and God, I want to give You a new name," the Father said. "From henceforth throughout all eternity, You will be known as the *Lord Jesus Christ*.

I confer this highly-exalted position upon You. I decree that everything in heaven, in earth and beneath the earth must bow its knees before You and confess Your Lordship. Your new name will express Your new authority, and You may share it with whomsoever You will" (Phil. 2:9-10 paraphrased).

To this day His name is feared in hell. Sickness vanishes when it is mentioned. Demons shudder when they hear it. Even death will give sway when it is finally uttered. This same Jesus, Who entered humanity as a perfect human and then assumed both sin and death for man, paying the extreme penalty for them, is now both Lord and Christ. Out of that seemingly catastrophic event, He rose in human form, immortal and incorruptible, to share the Father's glory. And today there is an authentic human sitting on the throne as our guarantee.

SPOILING THE SPOILER. "To spoil," according to the dictionary, means "to strip the hide from an animal" or to "completely disarm a defeated enemy." Paul tells us in Colossians 2:15 that is what happened. Jesus peeled Satan's hide like you skin an animal, stripping away every vestige of authority he had. When Paul said Jesus made an open show of them publicly, he had in mind the ancient victory march when the conquering general would parade his armies, spoils and slaves through the streets, much like a modern New York ticker tape parade.

In like manner, Jesus systematically "stripped" the defeated Satan before all the hosts of heaven, and earth and hell. He was not allowed to retain even the weakest aspect of authority, or recognition, lest he make a second claim.

He stood before the risen Lord, a broken creature, with all his outward "spoils" intact. Reaching out the Lord ripped the major badge from his chest.

"You were the anointed Cherub who lusted after Adam's authority and got it, but I am the Anointed One with ALL authority in heaven and earth."

Turning to the adversary's right shoulder, Jesus ripped the authority of sickness from him. "You were the fallen angel of light, who brought darkness

and death to man, but I'm the true Light of God who relights man," and that was that.

The other shoulder badge was the authority of poverty. "You were one of the created sons of God, but I'm the One Who created you, and now you'll obey Me in everything. Your ability to cause poverty, heartaches and degradation is hereby stripped from you."

On Satan's head was the "crown of death," his chief weapon used to accuse men before God. "They're guilty of sin; therefore, I demand their death according to Your Word." What heartache he continually caused the Father, but now it was being changed. Jesus finally stripped away the last remaining evidence that he was anything at all. The crown of death was forcefully, violently stripped from his head.

You'll be nothing but a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, but I warn you, be careful! I'm the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and I'm conferring My authority to My children. When they use My name against you, you'd be wise to flee from them as quickly as possible. The weakest, the frailest, the most timid one among them is much greater than you. ALL MY AUTHORITY, POWER, CREATIVE ABILITY AND IMMORTALITY STAND BEHIND MY NAME. When they use it against you, it's as though I'm against you . . . and I am. Now get out of My Presence. And don't forget . . . Satan . . . keep looking over your shoulder!"

The spoiler was spoiled. The strong man was overcome by the Stronger Man. Everything he took away from Adam, Jesus took back. Everything he put in Adam, Jesus took out. Everything he put on him, Jesus took off. Satan's works were completely undone, they were rendered powerless and ineffective.

When Jesus finally sat down beside the throne of Deity, He proved conclusively that all of Satan's "works" had been destroyed. Both Satan and hell were bankrupt, neither of them holding any claim on man again. Adam's legal, delegated authority was once again back in the hands of a perfect man.

Then, Jesus began distributing the spoils.

## 16: SHARING THE SPOILS

After Jesus had successfully, single-handedly invaded the strong man's house and disarmed him, "He took away from him all his armor on which he relied, and distributed his plunder" (Luke 11:22). All that He earned in this colossal conquest He unselfishly shared with the former captives. Who, but the Lord of glory, would do such a thing?

This act brings us to the zenith of Redemption, the seating of Christ Jesus as our legal representative before and beside the Father. A new man, immortal, incorruptible, never again subject to death, is now my Advocate in heaven. Can you blame Paul for shouting, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:3)?

What it means is this, every true believer has been legitimately pardoned from the sentence of death and *all its bitter fruits*. Judicially, he is restored to the position Adam enjoyed before the fall, and more!

That's why Paul wrote in Ephesians, which is the handbook of the authority of the believer:

**"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Him. That the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the *hope of His calling*, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance of the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power *toward us* who believe . . . which He brought about in Christ, *when* He raised Him from the dead, and *seated* Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, *far above* all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only *in this age*, but also in the *one to come*. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as *head over all things to the church*, the FULLNESS OF HIM who fills all in all" (Eph. 1:17-23 NAS).**

Jesus sat down, proving conclusively that the strong man was subdued. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth," He said. If He has all of



it now, then those who had it before don't have it any longer. He sat down.

**“Far above.”** All Satanic orders of principalities, power, might and dominion. He is *far above* all spiritual might, which is satanic energy directed against the children of God. He is far above all dominion, *Kuriotelos*, which in Colossians 1:16 is associated with “thrones.” HE IS FAR ABOVE ALL . . .

In fact, when Jesus arrived at the Father's right hand, He was given a name which is above every other name, in heaven, on the earth or below the earth. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, King of all kings, Lord of all lords, that at His name everything that lives must bow and confess His absolute Lordship. He put

**“All things under His feet.”** God promised Satan his head would be bruised, but how? Paul stated in Romans 16:20 that “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under *your* feet.” Whose feet? Yours, and mine! The feet, being members of His body, will be used by the Lord to fully subdue His enemies. Now we know why Paul said we needed our understanding enlightened and our darkened minds brightened.

It is God's eternal purpose that “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known THROUGH THE CHURCH to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places” (Eph. 3:10 NAS). God is committed to ruling the universe THROUGH THE CHURCH. It is THROUGH THE CHURCH that all satanic opposition must be put down. He has willed that THROUGH THE CHURCH He will exercise His Lordship.

How the Church desperately needs to awaken and begin appreciating her awesome authority, her privileged and her divine destiny because Jesus is **“Head over all things to the church.”** I wonder if we've even begun to grasp even a little part of the inherent implications of this marvelous truth? As Head, He conferred all His authority and working, to and through the Church. As “head over all,” His Church—Body is NOW head “over all things” through Him. His unconditional conquering of Satan and all his forces was *only* that His Body might rule “in His stead” and subdue those same enemies who once held them captive! While Satan previously lorded it over us, God fully purposed in eternity past that we would lord it over him.

When Jesus paralyzed the power of death and burst forth from that dark prison and “ascended up on high,” every believer was legally raised and seated together with Him. “But God . . . made us alive together with grace . . . and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him ... in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:4-6 NAS). His achievement was our acceptance. His resurrection was our releasing. His exaltation was our enthronement.

Everything He did was to **“usward who believe.”**

Apart from Him, we are still dead in our trespasses and sins, and Satan is still legally our master. The “Good News” is God calling all men to identify themselves IN HIS SON, exactly as the Son identified Himself with us, and be released (Colossians 1:13).

In the mind and purpose of God, when Jesus died, we died. When He was raised, we were raised with Him; and when He ascended to the Father’s throne, we ascended with Him.

This is even more specific in Ephesians 2:1, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins . . .” I’ve deleted the “hath he quickened” found in the Authorized Version, due to the absence of it in the Greek text. However, the truth is implied and that’s why the translators added it for clarity. Left by itself, verse one is incomplete, lacking a verb. According to J. A. MacMillan, in his little booklet, *The Authority Of The Believer*, the verb controlling this sentence is found in verse 20:

**“These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead . . .”**

Then putting a parenthesis around the rest of the words from here to the end of the chapter, we go to Chapter Two, verse one: **“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins . . . When He raised Him from the dead, and you when you were dead . . .”** In other words, the very act of God raising Jesus from the dead also raised His Body, the Church.

Whether or not this is the verb is open to question. If not, then the verb for this phrase is found in verse six of the second chapter. Either way, the same truth remains, WHEN CHRIST WAS RAISED, THE CHURCH WAS ALSO RAISED and is now seated on His throne, sharing His authority, sharing HIS SPOILS with us.

If you’ll lay hold of this truth, you’ll see that the exalted rank of the Church in God’s economy is thrilling. He ordained that henceforth all of His activities will be conducted through His specially-prepared Body. She is in full partnership with Him and is included in all His plans. He is incomplete without that Body, having voluntarily limited Himself to her.

Now we know why Jesus said, “He who isn’t with Me is against Me; and he who doesn’t gather with Me, scatters.” Now we have a little insight into what Paul saw and heard during his trip to Paradise. “. . . things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that

God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9). The Head can't function without the Body; neither can the Body function without the Head. That's why Satan works full time, putting forth his utmost to keep the Church divided on non-essentials. As long as she doesn't know the authority conferred upon her, the throne she shares, she'll never be any kind of a threat to Satan's guerilla activities.

Thank God, the Last Adam prevailed and won! Through the new birth, we are now part of His Body, as we have borne the image of the first Adam we must also bear the image of the last Adam. Everything Jesus was while He walked on the earth as a man, was exactly what Adam could have been, had he not thrown it all away. Everything our magnificent Christ was and is, is exactly what we are and will ever be. He is a pattern son!

This is such a far cry from the average church-goer struggling to live a morally acceptable life that they might somehow satisfy an awesome holy God. Religion walks in fear of God while His plan is to “bring many sons to glory,” making them as nearly equal with the Son as possible. We're already adopted into His very family as kin, “bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh.” His nature has been infused in us; His mind has been imparted to us; we are organically part of The Christ, implanted into the trunk of the Godhead.

**HE SHARED HIS SPOILS WITH US.** Allow me to summarize these truths! In vital union with Him, when He tasted death and subdued the powers of darkness, disarming and paralyzing them, we were participators in His victory. When He violently snatched the keys of death and hell from Satan, released the captives, and removed Paradise from Hades to Heaven, we were “in Him” and shared that victory. When He ascended on high and took His rightful place beside the Father, we shared His exaltation with Him. When the Father said, “Rule till all your enemies become your footstool, until Satan and his government of rebels are under your feet,” we were included “in Him.”

Instead of Satan lording it over us any longer, we are made his master with delegated authority over all his power. *This is the true meaning of identification and the purpose of Redemption.*

**WE HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO REIGN!**

## 17:LEARNING TO REIGN IN LIFE

What we've presented regarding the position of the believer is, namely, that he's been totally delivered from the authority of darkness and delivered into the kingdom of God's son and that he's been enthroned with Christ and all that happened to Him as the federal head of the new creation, also happened to those who are members of His Body. This must be divinely quickened to our spirits before it can work. Even though we've read these truths many times, when the full realization of them hits us, it is overwhelming, even stunning.

Is it really true, that little old me is what the Word says I am? Even if it's true, I don't feel like that. Whew . . . with all the problems I have. What's wrong with me . . . or . . . does it mean that?

It took a revelation before Peter confessed who the Christ really was. "Flesh and blood," Jesus said, "hasn't revealed it to you, but My Father which is in heaven," and no less a revelation is necessary to enlighten these truths to you. That's why Paul prayed that the Ephesians might receive just such a revelation, "that the eyes of their understanding being enlightened they might know what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints . . ." (1:18).

I agree, it does almost take your breath. After all, who else is more knowledgeable of our failures than we are? To most historical church-goers, it sounds too good to be true. Philosophical maybe, but realistic? Impossible! I agree. The shared glory of such a position *is* more than man can possibly conceive in his mind, but it is the *only* way to sure victory that is yours in Him.

Because it's a legal position, fully authenticated in the Word, it's a faith position, received by faith and held by faith. No, faith doesn't make it real, it's real whether anyone believes it or not, it's real because God declared it to be so in His Word and remains true whether we accept it or not. However, to enter into it, one must exercise faith as the evidence for that thing hoped for.

I wonder if one major reason why we've balked at such sublime truth is because there isn't any room for human merit whatsoever and that is the basis for religion?

The truth is, man is reduced to a state of nothingness and he is finally raised to the throne, all as an act of God's grace, "not of works lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:9). Man prefers to climb his own mountain of merit and personal works, groaning, pleading, moaning, punishing the flesh, praying and "faithfully holding on to the bitter end," rather than relaxing in a sense of relief and letting

God do it for us.

We've already seen the humanistic, intelligent, religious effort as Adam and Eve tried their fig-leaf skirts of self-righteousness and how miserably they failed. We've seen the perpetual presentation of religions over the centuries as each sought in vain to change his spiritual nakedness, rather than heed God's cry, "Let Me do it for you! Only My righteousness is acceptable. Let Me bear the problem, pain and penalty for you."

No, there isn't any room at all for any "do it yourself" kits, or for that matter, any "white-knuckle clubs." We've got to believe Jesus meant what He said in His Word.

**"For if by the transgression of one, death reigned through the one, MUCH MORE those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will REIGN IN LIFE through the One, Christ Jesus" (Rom. 5:17 NAS).**

You've been both accepted in the Beloved and exalted to the place of enthronement. A new life of holiness has been provided for you in the presence of God and a new watchfulness in the presence of the enemy. Christ's free gift of His righteousness opened that door for you and through that gift YOU now reign in life!

Kings are supposed to reign, to exercise their authority and to defend their Kingdom against all challengers. When they speak, it is done. When they command, they are obeyed. Thrones are for government and rulership. Therefore, authority and kingship are synonymous, the one and the same thing. Anyone vested with authority, who refuses to see that his commands are obeyed, is inviting an open confrontation that could bring about his eventual overthrow. A king either overcomes or he is overcome.

That there is a challenger is seen in Revelation 12:10-11:

**"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death."**

Notice that John didn't say this salvation would come, but that it is NOW . . . already here. It's here now because the accuser of the brethren has been thrown down. Also, observe that first comes salvation and flowing from that beginning comes power, the kingdom and then authority, linked together like the bulbs on a Christmas tree, each one getting its energy from the preceeding bulb.

The “they,” of course, are the saints, His Body, because in them He has invested His victory (Ephesians 3:10). Exactly how they overcame is extremely important to each of us, but first let’s answer an obvious question.

**If the enemy is a defeated foe and the accuser has been thrown down, and if his head was violently bruised at Calvary, and if he has no legal right to tyrannize the Christian again, why overcome him? If he can’t throw our sins in our face, and if they’ve been justly dealt with at the Cross, what is there to overcome?**

Although every statement you asked is true and all men are legally free, the adversary and his armies continue to counterattack. *They contest every inch of ground they lost.*

When God promised Abraham the land God said, “All that you see *can* be yours; however, only that which you actually put your foot on *will* you have.” Abraham looked from the mountaintop and all the land as far as he could see was his by promise. It was legal and sealed with the sign of circumcision. In practical application, however, only the land he personally “staked a claim on” was his. When Israel marched into that same promised land, they had to take every foot of it by force, even though it had been divinely promised to them. It was legally theirs, but every acre had to be taken by means of war. And then after they settled on it, they had to fight to keep it.

Why? Because *the former inhabitants refused to accept their dispossession passively*. They didn’t; you wouldn’t; and neither does Satan and his evil forces. They’ll hang right in there *waiting for you to passively give up one small parcel*. Then, they’ll reclaim the whole thing.

In like manner, Jesus said the “kingdom suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:12). As a Christian you must first of all “see” your promises and then fight for them. Your liberation from Satan’s kingdom is effective only to the degree you lay hold of it by faith.

Can you see now why Satan is determined to keep you from knowing the truth about him? Can you, also, see that the moment you discover who you really are and begin to enter the fracas from your exalted throne position, he can’t sit by idle?

Satan knows you’ve been called to put YOUR foot on his neck and stop his guerilla activities, but do YOU?

Satan knows that Jesus said, “I will build my Church and the gates, the authorities, the control points, can not prevail against it,” but do YOU?

Satan knows Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and

on earth . . . ” and that Jesus has delivered that authority to YOU, but do YOU know that?

Satan, also, knows the Word tells you to conquer him, but do YOU? And what are YOU going to do about it now that you’ve discovered it?

We’re in an overcoming warfare and you’re guaranteed to win, if you’ll follow orders as Jesus gave them.

## 18: ATTITUDES ON EXERCISING AUTHORITY

Until the believer lays hold of the attitudes found in Ephesians 6:10-20, there won't be any lasting victory.

We're to . . .

Be *strong* in the Lord,

Put on the *whole armour* of God

To *stand* firm against the *schemes* of the devil and

To *resist* and to *withstand*.

Let's take the negative first, and once again outline Satan's schemes and methods of attack. A scheme or wile in the Greek is *methodeias*, which means, "lying in wait, cunning, treachery, method." Practical experience has shown me that if we are going to wage war successfully, we should know how the enemy operates. True to form, he'll attack both the Word and your identity, so your only place of safety is in occupying the throne itself, "far above" the enemy. If you'll stay there by active faith, nothing can touch you.

You can fully expect Satan to put forth his most seductive methods as he tries to pull you down in spirit. If he can get you *discouraged* enough to question your identity "in Christ," your authority is gone and you are no longer a threat to him. You'll, also, be open for frontal attack. So let's take a look at some of his more obvious methods.

1. "The best way to overcome the devil is to completely ignore him" one teacher taught. "If he knows he isn't bothering you, he'll leave you alone and pick on someone else." Neither the Bible nor experience supports such an idea. There isn't anything Satan is more skilled in than getting believers to neglect him. How can they effectively "withstand him," if they're deliberately ignoring him? He doesn't care how closely you follow Jesus, although I can't see why unless you obey His commands, as long as you don't resist him. Satan is then free to carry out his own schemes.

What does Peter say our attitude should be? "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: *whom resist steadfast in the faith*" (1 Pet. 5:8, 9). He is YOUR personal adversary. The Scripture doesn't say God will resist him for you, but that YOU must resist him yourself. Anyone who asks God to rebuke Satan for them is wasting his time and prayers. The weakest member of the Body of Christ is



greater than our defeated enemy and has just as much authority over him as anyone else. If YOU don't resist him, nobody else will do it for you!

And please notice that it isn't an occasional affair, but an on-going battle, He's as sneaky as a hungry, hunting lion, but don't fear. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is standing with us, always causing you to "triumph in Him."

2. BEWARE! Satan will eventually use this successful scheme! He'll attack the integrity and meaning of God's Word and your personal identity that is revealed in it. When he came to Eve, he came as an "angel of light," which threw her off guard. Apparently, she believed what he said; perhaps even imagining he was a messenger sent from God. How many today, exactly like her, are taken in by the "soft words" of a man. As long as his credentials are in order, as long as he is well educated and lists his human accomplishments, his word is accepted, sometimes above God's Word itself. How often you've heard the cult teacher expound his twisted texts, or the liberal preacher publicly ridicule the Word of God, or for that matter, a fundamentalist preacher tell us, "God doesn't mean what He said . . . this is what He really meant." They are schemes to deceive you and pull you down from your exalted position in Christ.

If God has already spoken it in His Word, He won't speak about it again. It is to be accepted and obeyed.

3. An aspect of Christ's wilderness temptation reveals yet another wile of the devil. He tried to get Jesus to kill Himself by "proving His faith." "Jump from the pinnacle of the temple," he urged, "the angels will catch You. Doesn't the Word say, He'll give His angels charge over You'?"

Our Lord's answer exposes the treachery of Satan's challenge.

"Don't tempt the Lord thy God!" Is it possible to tempt God by standing on His Word? I've known many dear believers who lost their position by accepting such a challenge. "If I have true faith, I don't need to work or watch my health or what I eat. I can eat anything by faith. I just pray over it and my faith makes it okay." That's not faith, but presumption.

Being late for a meeting and speeding, down the road "by faith" will only get you a traffic ticket, and possibly an injury in a wreck from which you may *not* get healed. Jesus got out of the car when you hit 56 MPH! Don't let Satan trick you with one of his wiles.

I've counselled many new believers who were convinced that since God called them to the ministry they don't have to work. They're too "spiritual" to dirty their hands, so they lay around "by faith," "studying the word" while someone who does work "freeloads" them out of compassion. God's best plan

for prosperity is still the 8-40 plan: 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week! A temptation such as this is identical in content with Satan attempting to get Jesus to kill Himself under the guise of exercising “faith.” Any far out, oddball, tripping-over-the-clouds, lazy, so-heavenly-minded-to-be-any-earthly-good method is not from God.

4. In Job we see Satan’s wiles at his best. Catch a man at his lowest and lay it on him. Suck him into the heat of battle and while he’s hurting make him question the outcome. When this man of God with an unblemished integrity lost both his wealth and his health, Satan hit him the hardest, through his wife and friends, to charge God unjustly.

“Why don’t you curse God and die,” his wife sneared.

I can almost hear Job snap back, “And why don’t you get back in the house and hush! If you can’t stand with me, don’t stand in front of me. I’ll not curse God no matter how rough this battle gets. Now hush!”

It’s when you’re down so low and the pain is so deep, with both family and friends wondering what horrible evil you’ve committed to be punished *by God* like this, or you’re so backslidden and living in defeat that you just don’t have faith any longer, that Satan urges you to blame God.

“He did this to you. Why couldn’t He just save you and take you to heaven on a silver platter? Boy, some love He has for you! You’ve cried, prayed, wept, fasted, paid your tithe, read fifteen chapters daily, handed out tracts and still He lets this happen? Blame God! He doesn’t love you!”

“Well, you know, Trombley,” a doubter says, “there’s some truth to that. Remember poor Paul and his thorn in the flesh? Didn’t he plead with the Lord to remove it? Didn’t he ask, at least, three times and didn’t the Lord refuse? Yeah . . . there might be something to that, after all. Why did God refuse to help Paul? After all that little man did for Him.”

Now that you’ve asked the question, buckle your seat belts for the answer. There wasn’t any more the Lord could do for Paul. Everything that could be done had been done. Now it was up to Paul.

It was Paul who informed us by revelation that we were seated in the heavenlies. It was Paul who taught us most of the truths I’ve laid out for you in this study. Did he know what he was talking about or didn’t he? If these truths didn’t work for him, how can we expect them to work for us?

Three times Paul reached the low place of despair, but there’s no evidence he came close to blaming God. “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not

destroyed . . . ” (2 Cor. 4:8-9 NAS). What he did was question *why* the Lord wasn’t helping in the matter? (By the way, that thorn wasn’t sicknesses, much less an eye disease. It was a “messenger of Satan sent to buffet him.”) *In other words, he was in the heat of battle proving experimentally every truth he preached to others.*

“My grace is sufficient for you, Paul,” the Lord charged. He wasn’t saying, “accept your trials, Paul, while I comfort you in them,” but “my power is perfected in your battles.” According to Hebrews 4:16, we have a high priest Who cares, because He’s been tempted and tried exactly as we are, and Who has mercy and grace to help in the time of need. Paul had a need. What does grace do?

Wasn’t it grace, undeserved kindness, that brought about Redemption? And wasn’t it grace that exalted and enthroned the believer? What Jesus said was, “Paul, I’ve done everything for you I can do in this conflict, so please stop pleading. My grace disarmed Satan, so why don’t YOU use the authority I’ve already conferred upon you and resist him? My grace has sufficiently overpowered him with the Word in order that YOU can use that same Word, which is the power of God unto salvation. My grace sufficiently paid the penalty in full, so that the Spirit of God can once again inhabit man; so why don’t YOU use the Spirit’s power and resist him? The reason I can’t do anything for you, Paul, is because I’ve ordained that you have that honor. Your thorn is a ‘messenger of Satan sent to cuff you’ and he’s doing a good job. When you get sick and tired of being sick and tired, you’ll rise up and resist it and he’ll flee. Satan is under YOUR feet. Now do it; my grace will enable you.”

Remember that Corinthians was one of Paul’s earliest letters while Ephesians was one of his last, written while waiting in a Roman prison to seal his testimony with his blood. Between the two letters he learned the art of spiritual warfare and shared it with us.

**Don’t blame God under any circumstances.** He’s ordained that you win exactly as the overcomers in Revelations 12:11 overcame. Through the blood of the Lamb, which is His identification with them and through the Word of their testimony, which is their identification with Him, having loved not their lives unto death, which is their total commitment to win! They overcame Satan by refusing to back down for one moment from what the Word says about them.

1. One last scheme Satan uses effectively. If he sees that he can’t get you through one of his other wiles, he’ll throw every stumbling non-overcomer he can in your way. After finishing some instruction along this line, a fellow

minister took me aside and attempted to set me straight.

“It doesn’t work, Trombley!”

“What doesn’t work?” I asked.

“*It* doesn’t work; this ‘stuff’ you’re preaching. It sounds okay, but *it* doesn’t work. I tried it. One day I decided to make *it* work for me, too ... so I went out fully intending to ‘rub salt in the devil’s hide.’ Man! I laid hands on the sick, confessed the right things and praised God for everything. When I came home that night, do you know who had the salt in his hide? Me, that’s who. I tried it and it doesn’t work!”

“To be honest with you . . . I agree,” I told him. “*It* doesn’t work. That is if your *it* is just another teaching, a method, a program or copying someone else.”

The reason our brother failed was he was tricked by a wile of the devil. His problem with this world-changing truth was that he made it just another emphasis or doctrine. Of course, *it* won’t work.

A local church was wonderfully blessed with the uplifting messages of a well-known preacher. For one week that Body “came alive.” Folks left feeling they could conquer the world until Sunday came when the pastor took over.

“Now I’ll bring you the other side of the picture,” he said and delivered a full hour of negative scheming by explaining how “it doesn’t always work!”

Reigning in life won’t work for you or anyone else, if you entertain unscriptural ideas about it. It doesn’t mean that you’ll live a life void of evil thoughts or desires. You’ll have temptations, fears and doubts as long as you’re this side of heaven. Sin is always available (1 John 1:8) and prayer is still a necessity and watchfulness the key.

Nor will it work if you become so “heavenly minded you’re no earthly good.” Eastern meditation is an attempt to escape this nasty world of reality, but it doesn’t work. Faith must be exercised. I’d be less than honest, if I told you there won’t be times when heaven will seem as hard as iron and God seems a zillion miles away, but He isn’t.

You’re bound to fail, if you maintain the attitude that the enthroned Christian is now immune from the fiery darts of the wicked one or that there’ll never be an attack from the pit again. The truth is, you’ll discover that the very moment you **believe** and **accept your position in Christ** you’re a marked man. From that moment, you’ll be a prime target for all the hosts of hell with a determination and fury you’ve never experienced before. What reigning in life does mean is that through it all, you’ll succeed.

Especially guard against the scheme that if you’re saved you’ll never need the

cross again. We'll NEVER reach that place. Throughout all eternity, I want to stay right next to Jesus' precious wounded side. My victory is IN His cross and if I don't stay there I can expect a losing battle.

I agree, my friend, *it* doesn't work, because *it* isn't an it, but a He!

## 19: WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

The late Watchman Nee summarized Ephesians as the *Throne Room of the Reliever* and well it is. Like all of the Apostle Paul's writings, we can easily follow his outline. First, he presents the doctrinal or legal aspects of the truth; then, he follows with the practical application. The first three chapters detail our rights while the last three chapters deal with our responsibilities. The first are doctrinal; the latter are practical. First, the standing; then, the state. The rest of this study will deal with our "response to His ability," or our responsibility.

**"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Cor. 10:4).**

Because we're deeply involved in this mighty spiritual conflict, our weapons must be spiritual. The natural, or carnal ones, as Paul calls them, just won't work. Man's humanistic or simplistic methods are the "it." For example: Satan won't release his ghetto-bound slave because society throws more dollars at it. Neither will legalizing drugs cause the problem to go away. Publicly recognizing sex perversion, regardless of the acceptable titles given it, won't change anything. Social acceptance of "gays"—although I've never found a *happy* one among them and wonder why they call themselves "gay" when they're really not—will never force Satan to release them. The social gospel may be socially acceptable, but it isn't spiritually workable; therefore, Satan pays no attention to its efforts. If what I use doesn't work, I don't want it and I have no time for it. I want those weapons that have proven themselves workable.

## **WEAPON #1. BE STRONG IN THE LORD**

Before the enemy can get anywhere near you, he must go through the front office. There isn't any way he can confront you, except through the Father and the Son. Now you know why Paul said, "Your life is hid with Christ in God." Be strong in the Lord by *confessing* your position in HIM constantly (Ephesians 6:10).

If you're "in Christ" and He's "in God," where does that place you? You're "in Him" and as long as you're safely sheltered there, you're safe.

"But I certainly don't feel as if I'm sheltered there." Let this be your moment-by-moment confession. "I'm not moved by what I see; I'm not moved by what I feel; I'm only moved by the Word of God; and it says I'm strong in the Lord whether I feel like it or not!"

*One of your most awesome enemies is your tongue.* Is that hard to accept? It shouldn't be! How many times a day have you said, "I can't!" when the Word says you CAN? In the back of my Bible I carry "My Never Again List" by Don Gossett. For example:

NEVER AGAIN will I confess "I can't," for "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess lack for " . . . my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

NEVER AGAIN will I confess defeat, for "God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14).

I'm including this "Never Again List" in the Appendix for your edification. Memorize these promises and when you find yourself growing battle-weary, confess them and you'll find a new source of strength.

## **WEAPON #2. STAND YOUR GROUND (Ephesians 6:11)**

You may have heard the slogan: “Winners never quit and quitters never win!” Satan’s goal is to get you to abandon your position by using fear, intimidation or outright thievery (John 10:10). If he can scare you into giving up, he can entice you down from your lofty position to a level of unbelief and doubt where he can really get to you. As a believer you have his authority and dominion and he desperately wants it back.

The main reason Christians give up is because they don’t know what the Word says about them. Satan has thousands of voices crying, “That isn’t for today! ” Faith says, “ I know God can and He will! ” but fear whines, “ I know God can, *but* I don’t know IF He will! ” That is exactly where your enemy can ruin you. The very moment you claim your throne rights and exercise your authority in Christ, the powers of the air recognize you and obey. There may be some unwillingness and delay on their part, much like a little child who delays taking his nap, but eventually the enemy will surrender. Some time may be required, but they ALWAYS recognize authority.

Once you’ve spoken the Word, it shouldn’t be necessary to repeat it. You “stand your ground” solidly based on the Word and “strengthen yourself in the Lord.” The stronger YOU become, the weaker the enemy becomes. Soon you’ll be joyously shouting with the seventy, “even the demons are subject to us through Thy name.” And He’ll reply, “I saw Satan fall from heaven as you spoke!”

Unfortunately, both secular and religious periodicals report the failure and capitulation of the Church. One well-known Baptist minister said, “If we continue making disciples at our current rate, and if the population explosion continues, by the year 2000 the Church will be theoretically extinct.”

I don’t believe that for one moment. Jesus said, “I’ll build MY church, and the gates of hell won’t prevail against it.” That I believe! The Church is alive and well, stronger than ever before—and GETTING STRONGER.

Around the world believers are receiving a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. They are quickened; the Word is taking on new life; and the age-old arguments about the “age of miracles” ceasing, sounds like childish prattle. Many believers are assuming their place in His Body as active members. Consequently, Satan’s kingdom quivers.

Recently I received a tape informing me that I’m in error about believing that



Jesus actually “died for me,” and that I am now “righteous in Him.” I listened to what this preacher had to say and found it almost as confusing as the *Watchtower* confusion from which Jesus rescued me.

The Church hasn’t failed; she’s been blinded by professional clergymen who are more concerned about dotting the “i” and crossing the “t” than seeing God’s people delivered and living where He said He placed them.

STAND YOUR GROUND regardless of Satan’s arguments or he’ll kill you with a simple little something.

Notice that you’re to stand *against* something. This isn’t “rope a dope” maneuver where you lay against the ropes waiting for your opponent to tire before you make your move. He won’t. This is an aggressive battle! Satan isn’t supposed to put YOU to flight; you’ve been ordered to chase him. Six times Paul said we’re *against* something:

Stand *against* the wiles of the devil

Not *against* flesh and blood

But *against* principalities

*Against* powers

*Against* the rulers of darkness of this world

*Against* spiritual wickedness in high places

It’s YOU who are *against* these forces. If you fail to stand firmly *against* them, you’ll let the enemy in by default and the whole Body suffers. You are THAT important! When one member of His Body slips, the whole Body slips! That’s why Paul portrays the Church as standing shoulder to shoulder as one solid mass of victorious resistance (Ephesians 6:14).

## WEAPON #3 WITHSTAND

You've done everything you can do. You've maintained your identity in Christ. You know you're seated in heavenly places with Him; you've received the earnest of the Spirit; you're taking an active part in a local Church Body; your family is in scriptural order; your personal life is one of loving obedience; your mind has been renewed; you've developed an attitude of gratitude; and you've practiced the praise life, and still nothing happens.

What do you do, now?

"Having done all . . . WITHSTAND" (Eph. 6:13). This is a stronger word than "stand." You've already committed yourself to "stand," regardless of the time factor, but you're tired. What is WITHSTANDING? It means to *fling off*, and vividly expresses the true attitude of the believer aggressively attacking Satan. He's not waiting for Satan to make his move; he's on the offensive.

BOLDNESS—which is heart-faith in full manifestation, floods your inner man, making the inevitable success a matter-of-fact experience. You're so enthused about the outcome that all you can see is a battlefield strewn with the spoils of victory—yours.

Withstanding is aggression! Fling Satan off!

I've been told that one of the worse things you can do is to spoil your dog by playing too much with him. When the time comes for him to obey, he still thinks you're playing.

One day a poodle followed his playful mistress to the bus stop. Fearful that he might be hit by a car she turned and said coyly, "Now, Sammy, go back home!" and pointed her arms toward the house. Rather than running off, the little bundle of wiggling grey hair bounded into her arms, stumpy tail wagging as only a poodle can.

"Sammy," she scolded him softly. "Go back home," putting him on the ground.

After several seconds of embarrassing non-obedience, she stamped her foot to the ground hard, smacked her hands together, and then across his rump and shouted, "Sam! Get!"

At first, the pet studied her. She never played like this before, and apparently, not knowing how to interpret her actions, he lowered his tail between his legs and took off for home . . . fast.

So it is with your WITHSTANDING. Soothing words, polite prayers and cute commands won't get the job done! Let the devil know who you are. FLING HIM

OFF AS JESUS FLUNG HIM OFF! Any sense of fear, any sound of uncertainty, any attitude of playfulness will leave Satan “wagging his tail at you.” Put your foot down hard . . . that’s right . . . right on his neck and stand there. Then, bark at him, “Satan! get . . . while you still have a chance!” THAT IS WITHSTANDING.

One major reason Satan doesn’t always flee when you resist him is because some part of you may not be fully submitted to Jesus. Any sin, doubt, unbelief or rebellion, no matter how insignificant, gives him legal ground to refuse your command. It was Christ’s total obedience to the Father’s Word that conquered Satan, and only your obedience to the same Word will keep the enemy down. He knows you have to be “in Christ” to exercise any authority over him and unless you actually are “in Him” there’s no reason why the devil should obey you.

In Acts 19:13-16, there’s an actual account of this type of presumptuousness. The seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish high priest, who were Jewish exorcists, tried mimicking Paul’s effective methods of deliverance.

“I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches, come out of the man,” spoke the exorcist. One of the evil spirits spoke through the bound man and said, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” And immediately the bound man leaped on these men, nearly killing them.

Therefore, don’t allow Satan any room at all to maneuver in your life. If you do, it won’t be long before he’ll be your master again.

## **WEAPON #4. THE PLACE OF THE WORD, THE SPIRIT, THE NAME OF JESUS, PRAYER AND PRAISE**

What was it that made the early Christians so different? What did they have that shook the world? None of them had perfect characters, nor were they highly educated. Neither can I find any place where Christ gave them any more authority than He did any of us. Where did God change His program? So what made the difference?

“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak **THY WORD** with all confidence, while Thou dost extend Thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place **THROUGH THE NAME** of Thy holy servant Jesus. And when they had **PRAYED**, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**, and began to speak the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:29-31 NAS).

- They preached the Word,
- They were **ALL** filled with the Holy Spirit,
- They knew the authority of Jesus name,
- They gave themselves to scriptural prayer,
- And they lived the life of praise.

Do you want to try something that will really bless you? Get five different colored pencils. Then begin studying the Book of Acts. Read through it five different times looking for a special factor each time.

With one color, underline every reference to the Word. With another color do the same with the name of Jesus and so forth. When you’re finished, you’ll see the tremendous place those early believers placed on these five weapons.

Common men, like you and I, used an uncommon Word and it made the supernaturally natural. They knew that God watches over His Word to perform it; that it can’t return to Him void; and that He sends it to heal the sick. It is quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword and controls the universe.

The early Christians partook of God’s nature through that Word; they were saved by the Word; they saw God through His Word, and Jesus was called the Word. What a weapon! Now you know why some churches substitute tradition for the Word. It will never stop our enemy.

The early Christians knew that all miracles were done through the name of

Jesus. Note as you read Acts that rarely did they pray for the sick; they commanded them to be well, as though they had some special power. They didn't! Peter said, "It was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—by this name this man stands here whole" (Acts 4:10). They knew that Christ was IN His name and when they used it, it was exactly as though the Lord Himself was there. When they came "in His name," Jesus came. Hell shuddered, sickness fled and demons obeyed when they uttered that name in faith.

They were filled with the Spirit and power, knowing that He bore witness to all Jesus began to do, and still does through His Body. They knew the Spirit anointed them for service; separated them for ministry, and convicted, convinced and converted the lost. They knew that even though all the hosts of hell were arrayed against them, they couldn't possibly prevail.

And regardless of how the believers were withstood, their mouths were continually filled with praise. No, it wasn't a foolish giddiness, but an assurance that "that which He has promised He is able to perform." If you haven't read my book, *How To Praise the Lord*, please get a copy. It will show you how to put your faith into action.

## 20: GOD'S FIGHTING CLOTHES

In keeping with Paul's allegory of a fighting soldier, he gave us a "therefore" in Ephesians 6:14. As someone has said, "Whenever you see a therefore, ask what is it there for?" Everything previous to this verse is the foundation for the "therefore."

Perhaps you've done everything possible and still the battle rages. Satan attacks and counterattacks, using his entire arsenal of "wiles" as he probes for your vital area. So far you've successfully resisted, casting off every accusation, but you are tired. He has one last scheme; you must be made aware of—WEARINESS.

Satan knows that sooner or later, one of you must give in. He knows that if *you* persist and "hang in there," he must obey. For him to resist you is the same as resisting Jesus who already conquered him. However, if he can get you to doubt, just for a moment, and take things into your own hands to speed up the process, you've lost.

WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

**"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm [withstand]" (Eph. 6:13 NAS).**

Whose armor does Paul say to put on?

God's!

Satan has been up against "God's Fighting Clothes" before and he knows (he impossibility of getting to you when you have them on. Being fully clothed, God's way, is your sure way of success, so let's take a brief look at them. Please permit me to rearrange them in the probable order in which Satan will attack you.

First, he'll work on your *mind*, which is the seat of your intellect, will and emotions. Any uncertainty in this area is almost a guaranteed loss. Somehow I wonder if the "head" doesn't have a twofold application, being both literal, as well as spiritual? If it's your physical head, then his center of activity will be your "mind." If it's your spiritual "head," then he's after your authority. Either way, the approach and the results are the same.

If Satan can get you to doubt "who you are" and "what you have in Christ," he wins. You—through Christ—bruised his head and now he's ready for a counterattack against yours. Watch him as he goes after your salvation. He'll do

his utmost to get you to question your Redemption or make it null and void through a corrupt testimony.

On one hand, he'll convince you, using Scripture exactly as he did against Eve, Jesus and every other person he attacks, that as long as you've made a decision for Christ it doesn't really matter what happens after that; you're still saved! Multitudes have been deceived by this "advance" on their Redemption, and although they've convinced themselves they're born again, there isn't any authority or daily victory and Satan runs them unmercifully.

On the other hand, he'll point out that what you have isn't real; that you must do more and more until some day you'll finally be "good enough" to merit God's favors. Remember how he tried this on Adam and Eve with their fig leaves and it failed. Still fails today!

Regardless of his method of attack, he has only one purpose, to pull you down from where the Word says you are seated.

Eternal security, conditional security, salvation by grace and works, salvation by works alone, salvation by methodology and a host of other "plans of salvation" are often his scheme, all designed to keep you confused and "off the throne of victory." Your only hope is to put on the "helmet of salvation," called the "hope of salvation" in 1 Thessalonians 5:8. What is that helmet?

It's the Word!

Fill your mind with it; saturate your intellect, your will and emotions with the Word. Confess:

*"Satan, I don't want any of your theological foolishness. Jesus is the absolute Lord of my life. I won't live part of my life in your world and the rest in the kingdom. I've been delivered from your authority and translated into God's Kingdom. I'm seated in heavenly places with Him. I reject your accusations and your lies. I reject your subtle deceptions. I'm not interested in seeing how much salvation I can keep while serving you part-time. I'm putting on the helmet of salvation ... the Word!"*

Fill your mind with the Word. Rightly divide the Word and by that I don't mean to dispensationalize it until there's nothing left but powerlessness, joylessness and membership in the "white-knuckle club."

Sit down beside my Jesus and rest a little while!

If the enemy sees that he can't get you to live a sloppy life, leading to total powerlessness and reducing you to a mere Sunday-going church member, but that you are determined to have God's best at any cost, he'll drop his attack a little lower.

He'll begin to condemn you. He'll slop around in God's "sea of forgetfulness" and fish out some forgiven, forgotten sins and throw them at you. He'll gently try to get you to slip back into some of them.

Who do you think is behind the extreme liberalized attitudes in the Church? God can't change His nature—He's forever the same—so Satan liberalized the Church. Did Christ pay that extreme price for your enthronement in order that you may continue in your sins? Never! He died to redeem us OUT of this messy world and seat us with Him. Glory!

So the devil will try to condemn you. At times with "old things" long forgotten and at times with a dreadful foreboding sense of guilt. Nothing you can definitely put your mind on . . . just a sense of unworthiness and condemnation. There's only one thing you can do: PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS! What is it?

It is the Word!

It isn't as much the gift of Christ's righteousness—that came as part of your salvation—but an active obedience as that salvation is worked out in your daily life. First, the legal, then, the practical. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep MY commandments." One overlaps the other, like "the coat of mail" it represents.

Without the Word, you'll spend most of your time in introspection, peeling yourself like you peel an onion. When you get done you won't have anything left, but a tear. You *must* reckon yourself as God does, dead unto sin and all its consequences and alive unto God.

Cover your heart with the Word as a breastplate of righteousness. When the enemy attacks, his accusations can't penetrate that armor. Confess . . . "Satan, I resist you with the Word which is my righteousness and guarantees my immediate entrance into my Father's presence. Jeremiah the prophet said Jesus would be my Jehovah, my righteousness. I'm dead and my life is hid with Christ in God and dead men have no feelings. So you'd best be gone before anymore of His Word hits you. I reject and refuse your lies. I am not unrighteous, but I have been fully accepted in the beloved. I'm a fully-adopted child of God. In fact, God is my Father, Jesus is my elder Brother, the Holy Spirit is my comforter and you're no relation at all, so . . . go!"

He isn't finished yet, even though you've defeated him the first two times at bat. Do you know what he'll do next? Drop down just a little lower. If he persists long enough, he's learned from experience that most Christians will cop out and quit and allow themselves to be brought back under his control again. Willingly or unwillingly doesn't matter to him as long as you don't start exercising your



authority over him. If you're not commanding him, he's commanding you.

So he'll drop his attack just a little lower and hit you deep inside with FEAR. Fear of what? Often nothing in particular, just a sense of uneasiness.

Unless you have a clear understanding of God's Word and His eternal purpose for you, you have no foundation to stand on, so Paul said to "GIRD UP YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH!" This girdle is like the soldier's belt that held everything else in place, so Paul listed it first. Satan frequently uses the fear tactics.

"What if I don't make it?"

"What if it doesn't really work?"

"What if I die trusting Jesus to heal me?"

"What if ... if ... if ... "

At times, there won't be specific questions like these; just a feeling of uncertainty. One thing it isn't and that's the "peace of God ruling in your spirit," so it isn't God dealing with you. Just a nagging doubt that maybe, just maybe, there's something I haven't done or something I did and can't even think of what it can be. Snuff it out immediately or it'll burst into a roaring inferno of FEAR that paralyzes. PUT ON THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH, which is the Word and strengthen yourself in the Lord.

Some years ago in Zion, Ill., there was a postal worker who was brought low with cancer. If I remember the account correctly, he was declared terminal and sent home to set his house in order. At that point, there wasn't anything he or medical science could do, so he decided to "fight the good fight of faith" with spiritual weapons and pull down this stronghold.

Because of the finality of his illness, he refused to expose himself to the germs of unbelief that were available around him. Closeting himself in with only his Bible and several of E.W. Kenyon's books, he spent his waking hours in the Word, refusing to allow his mind to wander even for a second. He read continually, memorized Scripture and praised the Lord unceasingly. The inevitable happened and within days his whole outlook changed. His discovered forms of unbelief gave way to the bright sunlight of Truth. His unworkable doctrines were phased out as the Word invaded his being.

He put on the helmet of salvation, not doubting that Christ was his deliverer and bore his sicknesses on His cross.

He slipped into the breastplate of righteousness until all doubts vanished. No longer was there any theological arguments about whether he was "eternally secure" or "conditionally secure," but a renewed awareness that he stood "far

above” these schemes. Christ became his life, with no looking back. Why worry about unrighteousness now that he had the breastplate on? All fear and uncertainty of death was overpowered by the Word.

Unable to contain himself, he started confessing his complete healing. That’s when I met him and rejoiced with him. He looked as near death as man can come and there was that certain odor that goes with a malignancy. Yet, he confessed ahead of time what he expected. Today that man is alive and well. Living proof that the armor of God is sufficient to cause Satan to flee everytime.

“But just one minute, Trombley,” someone is bound to say. “What if he tried it and it didn’t work?”

That, dear friend, is pure unbelief! How dare you imply that my Heavenly father is dishonest and doesn’t mean what He says? Or that he isn’t able to effectively communicate what He means. What kind of God do we have, if He can’t make known to us what’s on His mind? How could that man fail when the Word declares he’s already won?

Next put on your sandals OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE!

“Oh, come now, Trombley, how are they supposed to help me? I need help, not peaceful shoes. And how can a gospel of peace win my war?”

I’ve learned out of experience that the fastest way out of a problem is to minister to someone else out of my necessity and not out of my surplus. For example: if you’re resisting Satan’s choicest disease germs, find someone who is sicker than you are and minister to them. Forget your own need and selflessly give yourself to their problem. God will flow through you to them and in the process your own health will spring forth speedily. Tell the person you’re ministering to how to get and keep their victory. Your own words will cause your faith to leap into new heights of effectiveness.

If your need is material, by all means, give out of your necessity. Share what little you have and you’ll soon have what you need. Are you short of time and never able to get everything done you should? Share some of your precious time with others and you’ll find yourself finishing everything you set your mind to do. This is an absolute spiritual principle and it always works.

Your body is now completely protected by the true covering, God’s Word. Now Paul goes to the *offensive* armor.

**“Take up the shield of faith . . . and the sword of the Lord, which is the word of God . . . ”** and stand (Eph. 6:16).

Everything thus far has been a defensive shield against Satan’s attacks. Now we come to some offensive weapons that will put him to flight.

**FAITH AS A SHIELD.** This large door-shaped covering enables you to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Unfortunately, it won't let you play "lone ranger." These shields work only when placed directly next to the man on either side of you. Together they provide a massive armor plate from the head to the ankles in a solid ring. You must be part of a local church Body where God's authority is invested.

FAITH works only as you aggressively act upon every promise in His Word. This is the only way the shield of faith will work. You believe the Word; therefore, you act upon it! One brother expressed it this way:

Forsaking  
All  
I  
Trust  
Him

**THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**, which is the Word of God in an active sense. It is more than mental acceptance, verbal agreement or silent hoping, but a RHEMA, which is the "spoken word." As far as the devil is concerned, this is the most offensive weapon the believer has. How does it work?

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," Jesus said. Unless the helmet, the breastplate, the girded loins, the shod feet and the shielded life are impregnated into your inner man, you won't have anything to say. You'll think so, you'll hope so, you'll believe so, yes, you'll agree that it is so, but you'll never know so and say so!

Only when the Word has become part of you can you say it as a Rhema, the sword of the Lord. This is more than the quoted word, more than the printed word, more than the listened to word, it is the *absorbed Word*.

Hurl it at the devil with your mouth! Like Jesus, you're not just quoting so many Scriptures as the scribes and Pharisees did, but you're speaking as one who knows his authority. There is a ring of life to it, the sound of dominion. It lacks the dang of empty loveless actions or sounding cymbals, but the mighty Word of the Lord.

Finally, ' **Pray** at all times *in the spirit* ... be on the *alert with all perseverance* for all the saints" (Eph. 6:18).

It's impossible in this short space to enlighten you to the blessings of Biblical prayer. Unfortunately, the theology of unbelief and helplessness that prevails in

so many quarters shows up in the prayers, also. Many of them sound more like a pity party and whining nurseries than the stomping ground where the saints are placing their feet on Satan's neck.

You can't pray in the Spirit unless you pray according to His Word. It's what I call, "praying the Word." You take Scriptures and use them as your words for praying. It's impossible to miss God that way. You can't "whine" and be alert at the same time. How can you be alert unless your eyes are lifted up and see the battle as it is? You can't persevere when you don't know what the will of God is in the matter. After all, who wants to work against God?

So what is prayer as Paul encourages it?

God has delegated His authority through the Church, so that His will will be enforced throughout the whole earth. Let His kingdom come and His will be done, on earth as in heaven. Although that Church doesn't have all her inheritance yet, she has the "earnest of the spirit" and she is reaching toward maturity, unto the full stature of Christ. She is an apprentice, learning how to walk with God, walk in His Word and exercise His authority.

The Church is mastering the art of spiritual warfare. All that Jesus did FOR her must be exercised BY her. Satan and his evil forces must be brought into line by her before she can join her risen Lord on His throne in eternity. In fact, Paul had such a revelation of her position and purpose in the earth, he called her "the Christ" in 1 Corinthians 12:12. The Head is absent and has delegated all that He is to her.

Therefore, prayers are His method of teaching her how to "overcome" practically (Revelation 12:11-12). It is only when this exercise is practiced in scriptural prayer that the Church will mature into the very character and ability of Christ, her Head. As Head, so will the Body be also. That Body must grow up into Him in all things (Ephesians 4:12-13). And that "know-how" can only be learned through practice; and prayer is the primary way she learns to exercise her authority.

A Church that won't pray binds God. He can't act any other way, being committed totally through His Body. He can do nothing apart from His church!

Therefore, prayer is His training ground, His school of the Spirit, His apprenticeship program, his recruit training camp, whereby we learn by actual participation how to overcome "through the blood of the Lamb, through the Word of our testimony, having loved not our lives unto death." It is through the out-working of Redemption that we regain the place Adam lost. To this end, Christ now sits as Lord and as our representative on the throne designed for us

when Redemption is fully manifested and the Church reaches full maturity.

**“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on the earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt. 18:18).**

Who is on the Lord’s side? Who will face the foe? Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters” (Luke 11:23 NAS).

# APPENDIX

# MY NEVER AGAIN LIST

By Don Gossett

1. NEVER AGAIN will I confess “I can’t” for “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13).
2. NEVER AGAIN will I confess lack, for “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19).
3. NEVER AGAIN will I confess fear, for “God hath not given me the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7).
4. NEVER AGAIN will I confess doubt and lack of faith, for “God hath given to every man the measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3).
5. NEVER AGAIN will I confess weakness, for “The Lord is the strength of my life” (Ps. 27:1), and “But the people that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” (Dan. 11:32).
6. NEVER AGAIN will I confess supremacy of Satan over my life, for “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4r).
7. NEVER AGAIN will I confess defeat, for ‘ ‘God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14).
8. NEVER AGAIN will I confess lack of wisdom, for “Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom” (1 Cor. 1:30).
9. NEVER AGAIN will I confess sickness, for ‘ ‘With his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:5), and “[Jesus] himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses” (Matt. 8:17).
10. NEVER AGAIN will I confess worries and frustrations, for I am told to cast “all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet. 5:7).
11. NEVER AGAIN will I confess bondages, for “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Cor. 3:17).
12. NEVER AGAIN will I confess condemnation, for “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).

*Scriptures laying a foundation for the authority of the believer*

# ALL BELIEVERS HAVE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OVER SATAN'S WORKS

(All New American Standard Bible Quotations)

Luke 9:1—And He called the twelve together, and gave them *power* and *authority* over all the demons, and to *heal* diseases.

Luke 10:1—Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

Luke 10:19—Behold, I have given you *authority* to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall injure you.

Mark 16:17-18—And these signs shall accompany those who have believed: in My name they will *cast out demons*, they will speak with new tongues . . . they will *lay hands on the sick*, and they will recover.

Acts 3:6—But Peter said, I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have *I give to you*: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—Walk!

Acts 9:34—And Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ *heals* you; arise, and make your bed.

Acts 14:10—Paul . . . said with a loud voice, *Stand upright* on your feet. And he leaped up and began to walk.

(*This authority is for every one who believed. First the twelve apostles, then the seventy,*

*then the whole church. Paul was NOT one of the twelve apostles, but an apostle of the church—Ephesians 4:11—given AFTER Jesus ascended.*)



# ALL BELIEVERS ARE IN UNION WITH CHRIST

John 6:56—He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood *abides in Me*, and *I in him*.

John 17:23—*I in them*, and *Thou in Me*, that *they* may be perfected in unity.

1 Corinthians 6:17—But the one who joins himself to the Lord is *one spirit with Him*.

Ephesians 3:19—And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be *filled up* to all the fulness of God.

# ALL BELIEVERS ARE IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST

John 15:5—I am the vine, you are the branches; he who *abides in me*, and *I in him*, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Romans 6:4—Therefore we have been buried *with Him* through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Ephesians 2:5-6—Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together *with Christ* (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up *with Him*, and seated us *with Him* in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:12—Having been buried *with Him* in baptism, in which you were also raised up *with Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Colossians 3:1—If then you have been raised up *with Christ*, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

1 John 4:17—Because as He is, so also are we in this world.

# ALL BELIEVERS ARE FILLED WITH CHRIST'S FULLNESS

John 1:4—In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:16—For of *His fulness* we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Ephesians 3:17—So that Christ may dwell *in your hearts* through faith.

Ephesians 3:19—And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the *fulness of God*.

Ephesians 4:15—But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects *into Him*, who is the head, even Christ.

1 John 5:11-12—And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is IN His Son. He who *has the Son* has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

*(Eternal life, which IS Christ Jesus—1 John 1:3—is now IN US, and all He is now indwells us. Therefore, Paul calls the Church, the Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:12).*

# **ALL BELIEVERS HAVE CHRIST'S AUTHORITY**

Luke 6:40—A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

John 14:12—Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.

John 17:18, 20—As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world ... I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for all those also who believe in Me through their word.

Romans 8:17—And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:9—For we are God's fellow-workers; you are God's field, God's building.

2 Peter 1:3—Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness . . .

# ALL BELIEVERS ARE EQUALLY EQUIPPED

## *One commission*

Matthew 28:18-20—And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ALL authority, has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit.

John 17:18, 20—As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent *them* into the world ... I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for all those also who believe in Me through their word.

## *One Word*

John 8:31-32—If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 17:8—for the words which Thou gavest Me I have given to *them* and they received them.

Luke 4:32—And they were continually amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.

## *One Motivating Force*

John 17:23—Thou didst send Me, and didst love them *even as* Thou didst love Me.

1 John 4:16—And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

## *One Power*

Acts 1:8—But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

1 Corinthians 2:4—And my message and my preaching was not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

2 Corinthians 4:7—But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.

## *One Faith*

Romans 12:3—God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

1 Corinthians 12:7, 9—But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit

for the common good. To another faith by the same Spirit.

Ephesians 4:5—One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

1 Peter 1:1—Simon Peter ... to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### *One Glory*

Isaiah 42:8—I am the Lord, that is My name; and I will not give MY glory to another . . .

John 17:5—And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I ever had with Thee before the world was.

John 17:22—And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one.

*(When I questioned the Lord about His glory being shared with us in the light of Isaiah*

*42:8 “I will not give my glory to another, ” He reminded me that I am not another, but His through the “new birth. ”)*

### *One Reward*

Romans 8:17—And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Revelation 2:26, 27—And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds. until the end, to him will I give authority over the nations ... As I also have received authority from My Father.

Revelation 3:21—He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

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For many years Charles Trombley was a standard Jehovah's Witness until a miracle of healing resulted in his "invitation" to leave the movement. A short time later he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit making him one of the first to receive this experience in the present Charismatic awakening.

Because he was apprehended by the Lord Jesus Christ through a miracle, he was instructed by Him to minister them to others. "What I've done in your life will be a pattern that I'll repeat many times as you minister to others." Consequently, they have been predominant in his ministry which has become worldwide. He was featured on national television in Sweden, and while in Malawi, Africa, multitudes embraced Christianity when they saw the miracles.

Besides authoring seven books, Charles Trombley has written numerous articles for leading periodicals. He edits *The Expositor Publications* and the *Sword Of The Spirit* teaching paper and directs Charles Trombley Ministries. He's been a guest on "700 Club," "100 Huntley Street," "PTL Club" and a regular teacher for CBN of West Virginia. Over the years he's worked closely with the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship as a speaker in more than 500 local chapters, regionals and international conventions.

His latest project is the founding and building of the first Christian radio complex in South Africa, to give millions of listeners daily gospel. His unique background, his expressed love for the Word, and his committed emphasis on Christ's lordship makes him particularly qualified to declare and demonstrate the exciting truths that are stirring the world today.